



Inside

**THE ROAD WARRIORS:  
HAVE THEY LOST THEIR KILLER INSTINCT?**

47727  October 1986  
\$1.75 / \$2.25 Canada

# Wrestling

**The NWA Championship  
Sinks To A New Low:**

**RIC FLAIR  
NEEDS 10 THUGS TO DEFEAT  
LEX LUGAR!**

**WWF INTERCONTINENTAL  
CHAMPION RANDY SAVAGE**



**Five Contenders Who  
Can Take His Title . . .  
And Five Who Can't**

**The Fantastics vs. The  
Shepherders:  
THE UWF TAG TEAM  
BELTS ARE WORTH THEIR  
WEIGHT IN BLOOD!**





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To Reveal  
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## SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthy. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

## GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

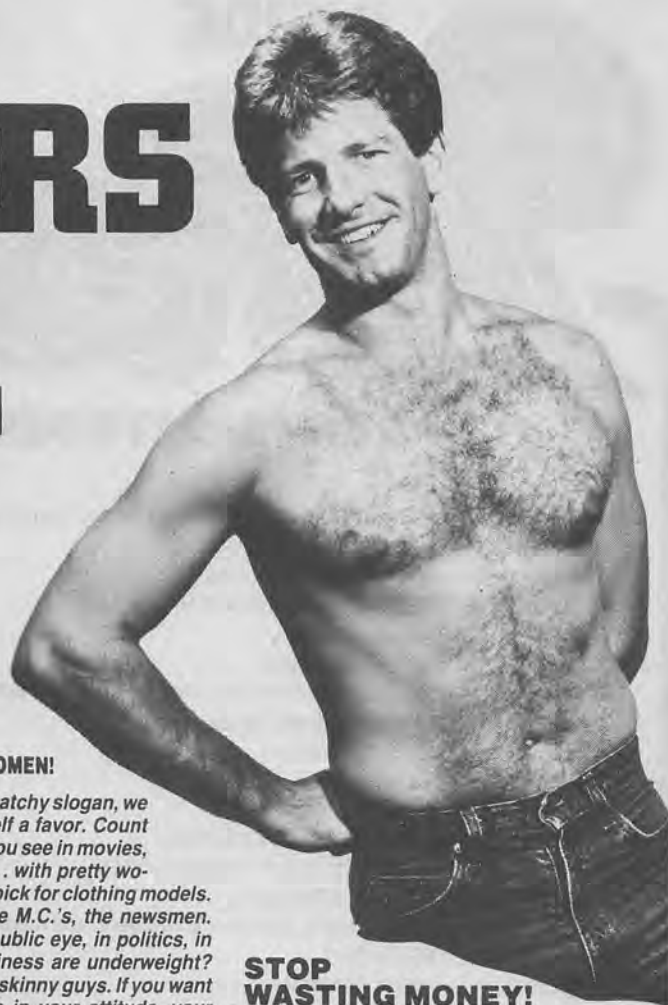
Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

## GAIN WEIGHT! GAIN WOMEN!

*If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with *ShapeUp* working for you.*

## LOOK BETTER AND FEEL BETTER WHILE YOU GAIN

In these times when women are free to express themselves and pick and choose their men, you don't need a handicap . . . especially when it's so easy to put yourself in the forefront of competition. Why not look your best? And you will if you feel your best. And you'll feel your best when you gain the kind of nutrition that builds your body to its highest potential. Everyone knows that a healthy body brings a healthy mind and the kind of outlook that makes you want to kick up your heels . . . and go out and lick the world. Yes, with *ShapeUp*, you give yourself a super-lift of confidence, built into its wondrous formula, that's compounded to perk you up and give you a winning attitude.



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**Here's a low-cost way!**

Some fellows, who've been trying hard to gain weight, resort to all sorts of methods to do so: professional exercise sessions, costly nutritional regimens, large investments in health foods, time-consuming weight-building programs. Yet, here, at an extremely affordable price, you are offered a product so elementary, so easy-to-take, yet so effective we offer it to you without any greater effort than filling out and mailing a coupon. You don't even have to go to a store for it. And unlike any other method, product, means or procedure, we **GUARANTEE** *ShapeUp* to the point of total freedom from risk of any kind.

## NO GAIN! NO PAY! WE ABSOLUTELY GUARANTEE IT!

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City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

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THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS  
THE LID OFF PRO WRESTLING

INSIDE

# Wrestling

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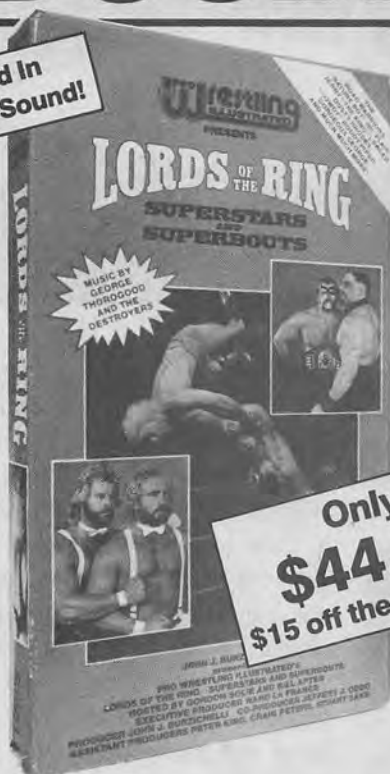
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Next issue on sale September 9



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- Junkyard Dog vs. The Missing Link
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- Jimmy Valiant vs. Paul Jones
- Ole & Arn Anderson vs. Buzz Sawyer & Dick Slater
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- Plus an outrageous six-man tag team match

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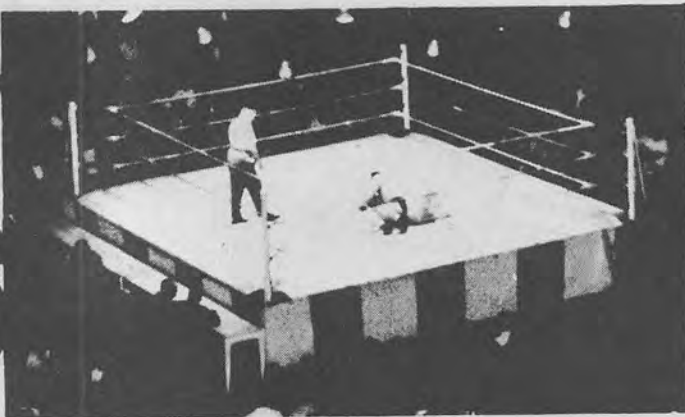
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SEND LETTERS TO:

# SINCERELY YOURS

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## **BUNDY HAS THEM RUNNING**

It's about time that your magazine recognizes the greatness of the next heavyweight champion of the world, King Kong Bundy. Just like Bundy

and his manager, Bobby Heenan, say, they were set up at WrestleMania 2. Bundy would have won if that were a normal cage, but Hulk Hogan apparently conspired with the WWF to keep

him from the title.

King Kong Bundy has distinguished himself as the most fearsome man in wrestling by injuring Andre the Giant, Hillbilly Jim, and Hulk Hogan. None of them will ever be the same. Hillbilly Jim's main claim to fame is that he was trained by the Hulkster. But since Hogan himself knows very little about wrestling, that's a rather dubious distinction. That dumb hayshaker Jim never was any good to start with, so he had better crawl on back to the hills before he gets seriously hurt.

Andre is running scared, too, and he proved it by not showing up for a tag match on TV against Bundy and Studd. Even someone with a pea-sized brain like Andre knows that Bundy will be the man who finishes him, so he stays in hiding.

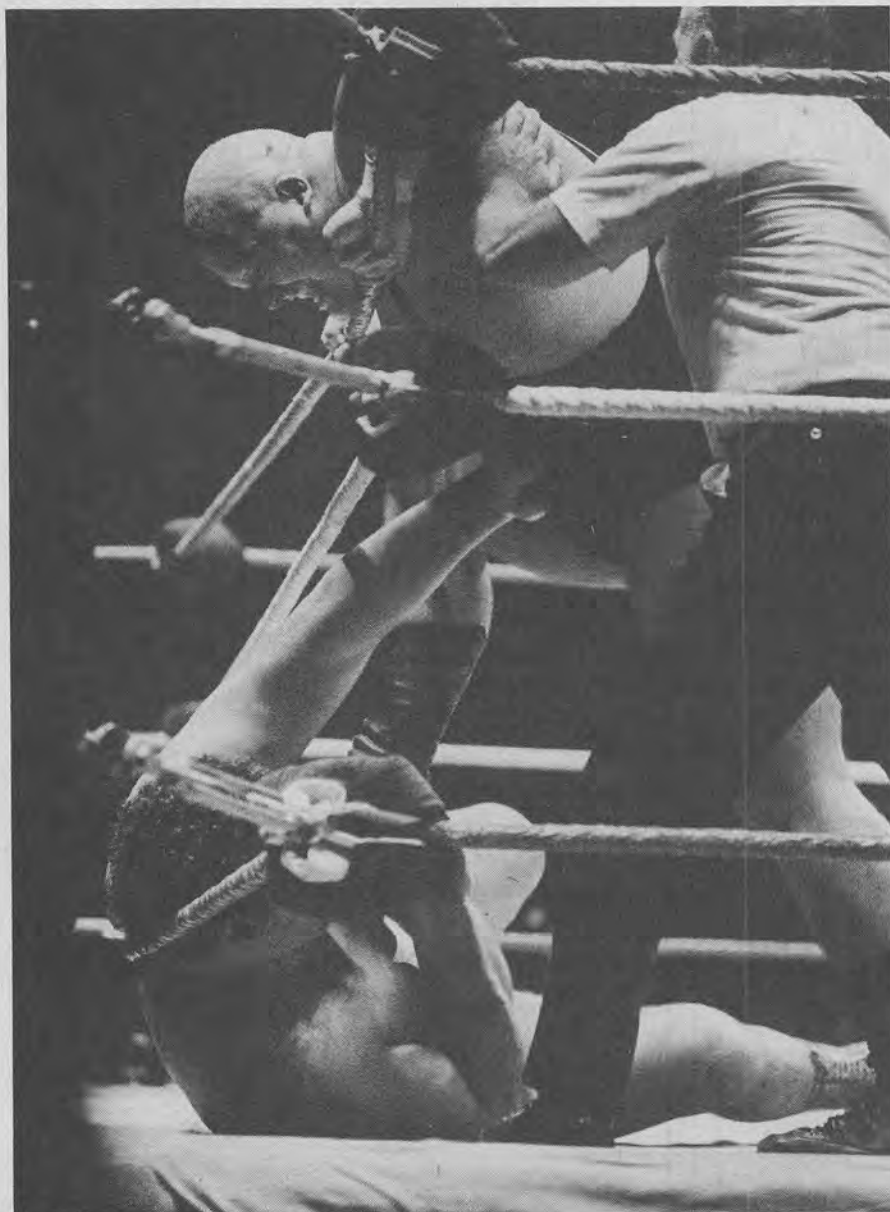
I'm sure that Hulk Hogan also shakes in his boots at the thought of King Kong Bundy because he knows the WWF can't protect him forever. King Kong will soon be the next champ and "BundyMania" will be running wild throughout the WWF!

GREGORY NASH  
Altoona, PA

## **BROCK DOES IT AGAIN**

Congratulations to Matt Brock for having the guts to step in and stop Sir Oliver Humperdink ("I'll Beat Them In The Ring Or I'll Beat Them In Court," August 1986). I'm not sure that I would have done what he did, but that's what makes Brock the kind of man I've always admired.

I've heard that great journalists have a nose for the news and I guess that's  
*(Continued on page 49)*



King Kong Bundy is intimidated by no man, including Andre the Giant, whom he has at his mercy. Gregory Nash forecasts the coming of "BundyMania."



# SHOW THE WORLD YOU'RE A TRUE WRESTLING FAN!



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A favorite among wrestling fans for years. These high-quality, silk-screened shirts are a fashion blend of 50% comfortable cotton and 50% long-wearing polyester. The official *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* T-shirt is crimson-red with white lettering and comes in a selection of four sizes: small, medium, large, and extra large. Only \$7.00.

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The perfect companion to the *PWI* T-shirt. A bright crimson-red hat emblazoned with a white *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* logo in unique raised lettering for a spectacular three-dimensional look and feel. Be the first fan in your neighborhood to wear one! Top-quality, long-wearing—one size fits all. Only \$7.00.

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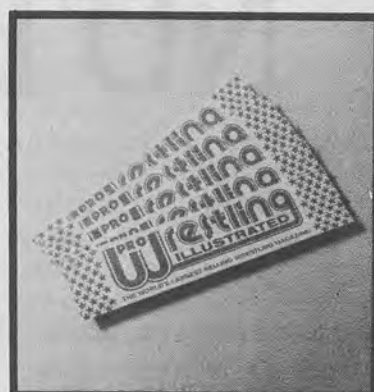
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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter  
King

Editor-in-Chief

Consider this situation: Joe Blow, replacing an injured Darryl Strawberry in right field for the New York Mets, hits five homeruns in a game, setting a new major league record. But the Mets, realizing that Strawberry is more of a merchandisable property than the unknown Blow, issue this statement: "The record for homeruns in one game belongs to Darryl Strawberry, because Joe Blow was substituting for Strawberry."

Ridiculous, right? Well, then consider this situation: Steve Simpson, subbing for the injured Kevin Von Erich, teams with Lance and Kerry Von Erich to win the World Class six-man title. After the bout, World Class officials say that Kevin—and not Simpson—is one of the champions, because Steve was substituting for the injured Von Erich.

Or this: Shortly after his thankfully non-fatal motorcycle accident, Kerry Von Erich was pronounced out of action for up to a year. So do World Class officials vacate the six-man title? Of course not. They issue a statement saying that Mike Von Erich will take Kerry's place in the championship tag team. True, Mike has not lost a match in more than a year. Because Mike hasn't wrestled in more than one year!

There is definitely trouble in Von Erich land. World Class officials have lost their sense of judgment, as they twist themselves into ugly positions just to please the Von Erichs. Perhaps they feel that the Von Erichs are so popular, the fans don't care about fair play, sportsmanship, or rational decisions anymore. The whole situation stinks.

The Von Erich boys are among the most talented wrestlers in the world. They don't need favoritism from the officials to make it in this sport. But they are as much to blame as the officials. They should refuse to accept titles on a silver platter.

It's time for a shakeup at the very top of World Class Wrestling.



# BE TOUGH!

## I MEAN REALLY *TOUGH!*

My method of DYNAMIC-TENSION gives you results you can feel and your friends will notice. Big, useful muscles. Gain pounds in weight where needed.

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**'TOP  
SECRET'**

# **Behind the Dressing Room Door**

**by Stu  
Saks**

**T**OMMY GILBERT unpacked the cardboard boxes that had been filled with years' worth of meaningless junk and other assorted items. He had expected to bring the boxes home, throw them into the attic, and probably never look at their contents again. He certainly didn't expect to be back behind his desk just hours later unpacking the boxes and replacing the junk.

Gilbert's eyes moistened as came across a framed picture of himself and his son, Eddie. They were both smiling. They were father and son, and they were friends.

"I didn't get much sleep the last few nights," Tommy said, apparently trying to explain the tears in his eyes to his guest. No feeling human being could be anything but sympathetic to UWF referee Tommy Gilbert, the father of the most hated man in the region.

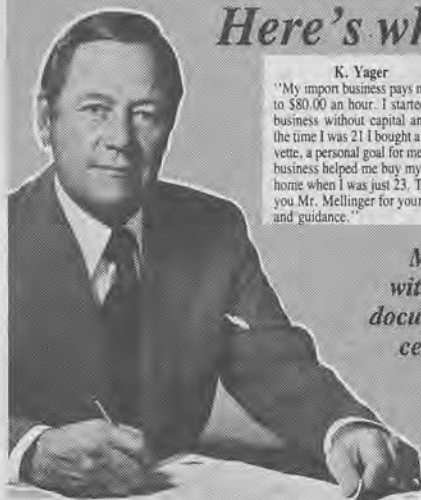
Tommy Gilbert's own career was being ruined by the embarrassment he was feeling for the same son who had for so long made him so proud. "At the time Eddie began his career," Tommy recalled, "I had been around for a while and was seriously thinking of packing it in. Eddie renewed my enthusiasm. He added years to my career."

Tommy Gilbert doesn't wrestle anymore, but he has established himself as one of the sport's premier referees. After several sleepless nights, though, he had decided to give up that career to escape the embarrassment of having to be associated with a son who associates himself with communists and other of the sport's baser elements. "I've never run away from anything in my life, but I've never been in a situa-

*(Continued on page 52)*



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# ON THE ROAD

with  
CRAIG PETERS

I WAS HANGING out in the kind of bar where you wouldn't even *think* of asking the bartender to switch the channel so you could just catch a quick glance at the U.S. Open leader board. Even though that monumental golf tournament was being held less than an hour's drive from where I was, all attention was placed on MTV. Not because the folks at the bar wanted to see Peter Gabriel's video for "Sledgehammer" or Martha Quinn's latest trivia question, but because today was the day for the Amnesty International Conspiracy Of Hope concert.

It was a day for thoughtful discussion over a couple of draughts. After all, Amnesty International is serious business: The London-based organization, formed in 1961, works to win the release of political prisoners around the world. The concert, featuring such musical notables as U2, Bob Dylan, Carlos Santana, Lou Reed, and The Police, was held to raise money and consciousness.

As Miles Davis paced the stage on the 24-inch color tube, I asked the bartender for a refill. Off to my left, I heard a couple of guys talking about how, since there's been Band-Aid, Live Aid, Farm Aid, Fashion Aid, Sport Aid, Comic Relief, Hands Across America, and now the Conspiracy of Hope concert, it's high time for something, maybe even another concert, to bring attention to MIAs—Vietnam veterans, missing in action, yet to be confirmed as either dead or alive.

"Governments sit and do nothing," one of the men at the bar said in my direction, but actually to no one in particular, "and the families keep tearing their hearts out day after day. It's a nightmare. But there are plenty of us out there who aren't going to let this issue fade away. Hey, these rock stars are doing a good job for Amnesty, now it's time to give the MIAs some attention."

Miles kept pacing and playing, and I moved over a couple of barstools to join the conversation. I soon discovered I was speaking with Ronald "The Belly" and Harley Al, members of the Long Island chapter of the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club. They spotted my *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* T-shirt, and our conversation turned to certain aspects of the mat sport that the average fan doesn't often consider.

"Take the team of Dan Spivey and Mike Rotundo," Harley Al said. "They come into the ring every time with The Boss' 'Born In The U.S.A.' blasting through the sound system. I'll trade my bike in for a Yamaha road runt if either of those guys have half an idea what that song is all about."

The Belly laughed hysterically. Not from the thought of Spivey and Rotundo being ignorant of their theme song's

meaning, but because of the thought of Harley Al being seen riding anything *but* a Harley Davidson. Particularly a Yamaha. "I mean, all you've got to do is listen to the lyrics," Harley Al continued. "The fans see Spivey and Rotundo waving a flag, they hear Springsteen singing, and they think they're cheering for America. If they'd listen, they'd know that 'Born In The U.S.A.' is a song about how a lot of Vietnam veterans have gotten a pretty raw deal. *Come back home to the refinery; Hirin' man said 'son, if it was up to me';*

*Went down to see my V.A. man; He said 'son, don't you understand, now?'* Check it out: Those few words say a lot, and it doesn't have a whole hell of a lot to do with giving money to Lee Iacocca and the Statue of Liberty fund."

"Hey, what about Jesse's blood clots?" The Belly said, referring to the lung condition that sent Jesse Ventura into the hospital for several months in 1985, reduced him to a part-time wrestler, and ultimately forced his retirement. "There's a vet getting a raw deal. Jesse says it's because of Agent Orange, and I wouldn't be surprised. You don't see the feds knocking down his door to give him money for medical treatment, do you?"



Jesse Ventura

Indeed, Jesse has publicly claimed that Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant used in the Vietnam war (Jesse was a Navy SEAL during the war), may have been responsible for the blood clots in his lungs.

The conversation, having drifted from Amnesty International to wrestling, was beginning to drift from wrestling to government interference in citizens' lives. On the television screen, Miles continued pacing and playing. I bought a round of beers for Harley Al, The Belly, and myself, stuck around for about another half hour, then left to make an early evening appointment.

It truly was a day for thoughtful discussion. Do Spivey and Rotundo have any idea what their theme song means? If so, should they be more vocal about the issues involved? Is Jesse the victim of U.S. military carelessness? If so, should something be done to help him gain restitution?

Sometimes wrestling raises questions a little more significant than, "Why is so-and-so feuding with so-and-so?" And usually, these questions don't have any easy answers. But they do remind us that there's more to the sport, and the people involved in the sport, than feuds and pinfalls.

That's something we should all be reminded of from time to time. □



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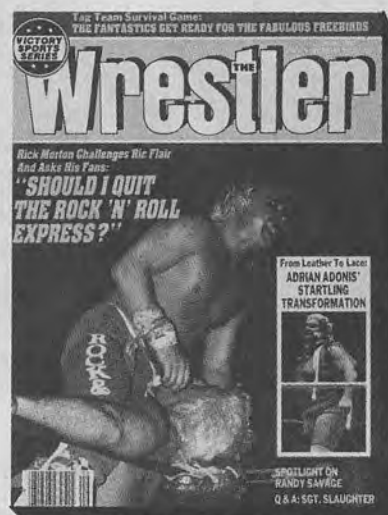
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# NAMES MAKING

The big news this month concerns the career-threatening injuries suffered by **Kerry Von Erich** while riding his motorcycle through a small town near Fort Worth, Texas. Although Eddie Ellner deals with the story in his "Insider" column on page 18, here's an update on the situation.



**KERRY VON ERICH**

Although doctors have been rather hush-hush about Kerry's condition, preliminary reports indicate that the popular wrestler figures to be out of action for at least six months and possibly as much as two years. There have been rumors that Kerry might never return to the ring, but attending physician **Dr. William Sutker** remains optimistic.

Kerry suffered a dislocated right hip, lacerated his right knee, and had an open fracture of the right ankle. He underwent over 20 hours of surgery over a three-day period, including microscopic surgery to replace dead muscle tissue in his right foot. According to operating surgeon **Dr. Howard Moore**, Kerry will need extensive rehabilitation.

As wrestling fans are aware, Kerry's injury is the latest in a series of tragic incidents that have cursed the Von Erich family. **Fritz Von Erich**, Kerry's father, has managed to keep a stiff upper lip throughout this ordeal, but he displayed uncharacteristic emotion at a press conference following Kerry's third operation.

"Kerry's life is not threatened," Fritz was quoted as saying in *The Dallas Morning News*. "Where the Lord's will in this is what we'll accept. Don't count Kerry out, not by a long shot."

Kerry's injury created additional confusion in the World Class' six-man tag team title picture. **Lance Von Erich**, **Kerry Von Erich**, and **Steve Simpson** (substituting for Kevin) won the title from **The Freebirds** in April, but officials decided that Kevin, not Simpson, would receive a share of the belt. Now, with Kerry out of action, **Mike Von Erich**, who has recovered from his life-threatening bout with toxic shock syndrome, will share the title with Lance and Kevin. So this means that Lance is the only remaining member of the team who was actually involved in the title victory.

All hell broke loose during a broadcast of *World Championship Wrestling* on SuperStation WTBS. Prior to a



**THE ROAD WARRIORS**

match between NWA champion **Ric Flair** and **Tony Zane, Road Warrior Hawk** ran into the ring and attacked Flair. Then **Ole Anderson**, **Arn Anderson**, and **Tully Blanchard** joined Flair to quadruple team Hawk. **Animal** ran to ringside to help his partner, but Ole, Tully, and Flair attacked him while Arn held Hawk. Manager **Paul Ellering** came to Animal's rescue and then **J.J. Dillon** came onto the scene. He smashed Ellering with a shoe and knocked him out. Tully gave Animal a piledriver, knocking him unconscious. Then the Four Horsemen and Dillon got into the ring and Arn gave Hawk the powerful "gourdbuster." Animal was badly dazed and took additional abuse before the Horsemen and Dillon left the ring.



**HULK HOGAN**

The feud between **Hulk Hogan** and **Adrian Adonis** is peaking. During a recent match at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey, Adonis hit Hogan with manager **Jimmy Hart's** megaphone. Hogan was bloodied and had to be restrained by referee **Dick Woherle**. Hulk was disqualified after



# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...

he hit Woherle. He then kicked ring announcer **Mel Phillips** after he announced the decision . . . **Nick Bockwinkel** and AWA World champion **Stan Hansen** also appear to have something going. After Hansen won a recent match, Bockwinkel ran into the ring with a whip. The two fought for a few minutes and it appears as if Bockwinkel is ready to make a serious run at Hansen's title.

More from the feud department. On a UWF television broadcast, **Michael Hayes** explained that his nickname initials "P.S." mean "Purely Sexy." Ted DiBiase grabbed the ring micro-



MICHAEL HAYES

phone while Hayes was doing commentary with **Jim Ross** and said that "P.S." really stands for "Prissy Sissy." Naturally, Hayes was pretty upset about being embarrassed on nationwide TV, and has vowed to get DiBiase . . . **Jesse Ventura** has announced his retirement from active wrestling. He recently finished filming *The Predator* with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Carl Weathers and has two more 20th Cen-

tury Fox films on the docket. Apparently, Ventura is taking his Hollywood career seriously. "I had my beautiful face insured by Lloyd's of London," Ventura said.

Note to wrestling widows: Don't be surprised if the wrestling fan in your life rarely has an evening free. Channel 68, which broadcasts out of Northern New Jersey to the New York metropolitan area, is now airing wrestling six nights a week, Monday through Saturday. Here's the schedule: NWA on Mondays and Fridays, World Class on Tuesdays, California Championship Wrestling on Wednesdays, "The Best of the World Class" on Thursdays, and the UWF on Saturdays.

**Rip Oliver** outlasted **Bobby Jaggers**, **Moondog Moretti**, **Chris Colt**, **Cocoa Samoa**, **Sheik Abughdadien**, **Scott Doring**, **Nick Kinski**, and others in a battle royal to choose a new Pacific Northwest Champion. **Billy Jack Haynes**, the former



RIP OLIVER

champion whose nomadic tendencies are testing the patience of even his biggest fans, fled to the WWF . . . **Buddy Landell** won a tournament to decide the Mid-Southern championship, while **Dutch Mantell** won the Mid-America title from **Rip Rogers** . . . **Terry Gordy** defeated **Hacksaw Duggan** in the final round of the UWF championship tournament . . . **Lex**



LEX LUGAR

**Lugar** won the Bahamas belt from **Ron Bass** and now owns both that and the Southern title . . . The World Wrestling Council announced that **Wendi Richter** is the first WWC Women's champion.

**Scott Putski**, son of **Ivan Putski**, made his wrestling debut in Waco, Texas . . . **John Studd** and **King Kong Bundy** beat WWF tag team champions **The British Bulldogs** in a non-title match in Toronto . . . **Bubba Rogers** has been hired as bodyguard for **Jim Cornette**.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches. □

# BACK ISSUES OF



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**February 1983**/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

**March 1983**/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

**April 1983**/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

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**June 1983**/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

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**September 1983**/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

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**November 1983**/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

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**April 1985**/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

**May 1985**/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

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# THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on this magazine.]*

THE OFFICIAL REPORT as relayed to me by Steve Habgood, Assistant Director of Public Relations of the Baylor Medical Center, described the incident in the aggressive hospitalese that attempts to depersonalize catastrophe but does just the opposite.

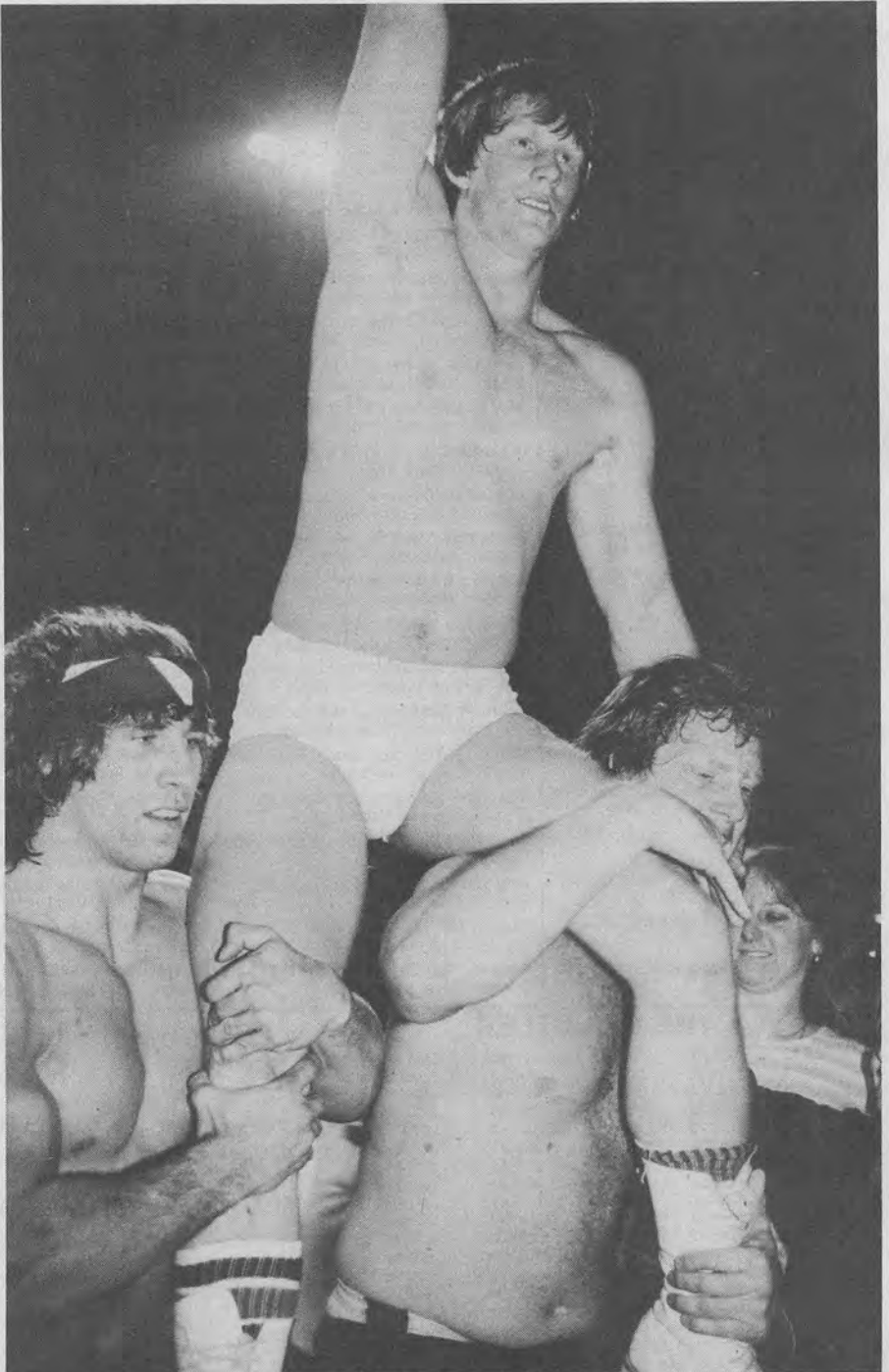
On June 4, Kerry Von Erich was involved in a motorcycle accident north of Dallas, in Argyle, Texas. He was thrown from his vehicle, incurring massive injuries, including a dislocated right hip, lacerated right knee, and an open fracture of the right ankle. The fracture broke the skin.

Because of concern of infection, surgery was performed from 11:15 p.m. until 3 a.m. the next morning. The surgery was to clean and close the lacerations, relocate the ankle bone and set a pin. He was placed in intensive care and listed in fair condition.

He was released from intensive care on June 6. On Saturday the seventh, Von Erich was scheduled for surgery to further clean his wounds and assess damage. They discovered extensive dead muscle tissue and removed it. Further surgery was scheduled for Sunday.

It required 15 hours for surgeons to remove muscle from be-

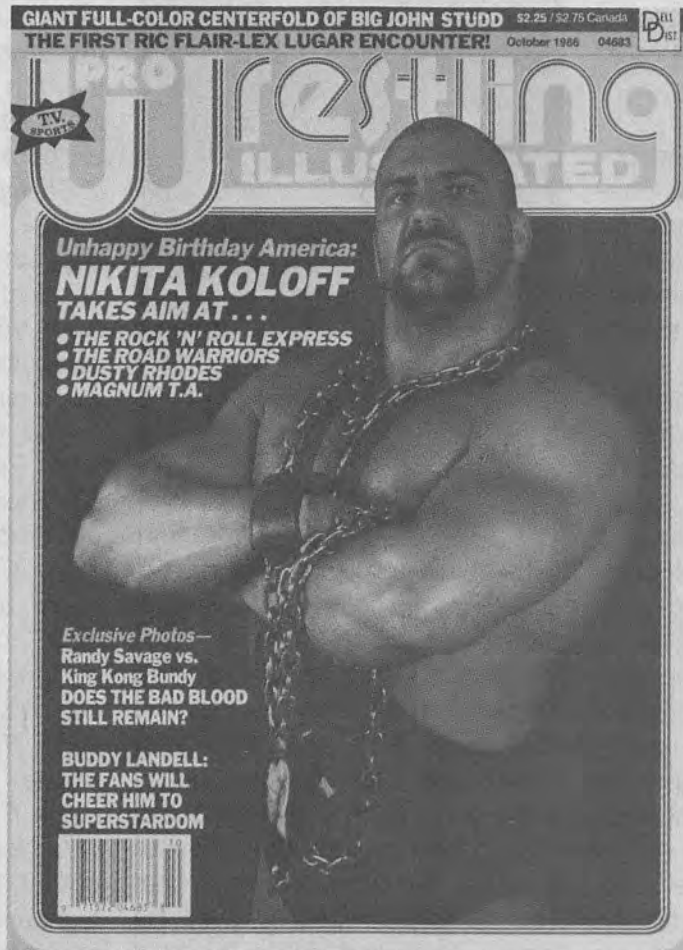
*(Continued on page 20)*



**TRAGIC TRIO:** Kerry and David Von Erich hoist brother Mike on their shoulders after one of Mike's early career victories in January 1984. One month after this photo was taken, David died. In August 1985, Mike nearly died. In June 1986, Kerry was involved in a motorcycle accident that could well end his career.



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## THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)

low the left region of Von Erich's back and graft it on to his injured foot. Microscopic vessel surgery was performed to re-establish the proper flow of blood. Skin was taken from his hip and grafted over the wound. He remains listed in fair condition.

One can imagine how the police, paramedics, nurses, surgeons, and administrators responded to the accident. Blood is their business, and they deal with it calmly, with dispassionate efficiency.

But what flashed through Kerry Von Erich's mind when his motorcycle began its slide across the road? What was he thinking during his fling through the air, his body still intact, still the "Modern-Day Warrior," muscled and handsome? Did the initial crash separate his hip or did it happen later as his flesh thudded across the pavement? Was he aware that a bone had protruded through the skin at his ankle, and might force him to walk with a limp the rest of his life? Could he view the separation of his own limbs with the same detached coolness as his doctors would?

What does a man think in the split-second before his life irreparably changes? From the thousands of accounts automobile accident victims have given of their near-fatal mishaps, we know that the microsecond of impact can stretch beyond a dozen eternities. What was Kerry thinking? Aware of his beliefs, Kerry might well have spoken with his Lord, the question most likely on his lips being, "Why?"

If God works in mysterious ways, then rarely have his methods been more obscure than in the fashion He has dealt with the Von Erich family. He has been known to occasionally test the



Hopefully, we will one day be able to marvel at this man's skills again.

faith of his followers, placing obstacles as a measure of His people's belief, but in the case of the Von Erich family, even the most devout are tempted to beg the Lord to lay off.

With this latest tragedy, nearly every one of the Von Erichs has undergone an individual trauma separate from the collective grief that hangs permanently over the family. Death first visited the family over 20 years ago, when the oldest child, Jack, was electrocuted at the age of five. It was a morbid harbinger of things to come.

In 1982, while wrestling in Japan, David Von Erich succumbed to acute enteritis, a mysterious intestinal ailment. The death halted David in the prime of his career and forced the family to publicly dismiss the media-inspired possibility of a Von Erich curse. In their private grief, no one knows how the rumors affected them.

However, after Mike Von Erich was nearly subdued by toxic shock syndrome (an illness that has quite possibly ended his career, although he insists he will

one day wrestle again), the family was forced to confront the curse again.

At the time, Kerry Von Erich issued a haunting statement. "I think the way Mike has battled this thing should tell everyone that the Von Erichs are alive and kicking. There's nothing that can bring us down."

Several weeks after his discharge, Mike returned to the hospital, the victim of his own car accident, which, in typically bizarre Von Erich fashion, sent him catapulting through his sun roof and smashing to the ground.

And just months ago, Kevin Von Erich aggravated an old shoulder injury that forced him off his brother's Memorial card, and there are rumors that the injury might require reconstructive surgery.

Now Kerry Von Erich lies broken in a hospital bed in fair condition. *Fair condition.* The man whose body was more kin to stone than flesh, whose condition was never anything less than excellent, lays stitched and battered, a machine doing to him what no opponent ever could. At the very least he will be out of action for six months, leaving Lance as the only healthy Von Erich around. Hopefully, not being of lineal descent, Lance might be spared the Von Erich curse. Because it is a curse, this relentless disintegration of wrestling's First Family. Coincidence is too meager an explanation; such catastrophe deserves better labeling.

As readers of this column know, I am not a Von Erich supporter or sympathizer, but I join with their millions of fans in demanding, to whomever or Whomever is responsible for their fate, to stop it. Spare the rod. Get off their case. For Christ's sakes, enough is enough. □



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# NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

## BALTIMORE, MD By Ian Skinner



**SHASKA WHATLEY**  
vs.  
**JIMMY VALIANT**



This was a lumberjack match, so neither man could leave the ring without being thrown back in by the wrestlers around the ring. Whatley started by attacking Valiant from behind and held Valiant while Paul Jones threw some punches. Valiant rallied by beating Whatley like a dog and punching Jones. Shaska soon made a fatal mistake: As he was yelling at the lumberjacks, Valiant rolled him from behind for the pin.  
**OTHER BOUTS:** Magnum T.A. beat Tully Blanchard in a barbed wire bunkhouse match ... The Midnight Express beat Ron Garvin & Wahoo McDaniel by disqualification ... Arn Anderson drew with Manny Fernandez ... Konga the Barbarian beat Todd Champion ... Jim Garvin beat The Italian Stallion.

## PITTSBURGH, PA By Scott Chichy



**HULK HOGAN**  
vs.  
**KING KONG BUNDY**

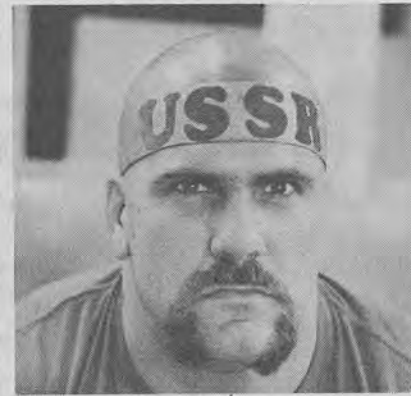


Hulk Hogan took control of the match from the first punch and shoulderblock. Hogan tried for a bodyslam, but Bundy fell on top of him and took control of the match for several minutes. Soon Hulkamania asserted itself: Hogan bodyslammed Bundy and legdropped him to set up the three-count. As Hogan went for the pin, Bobby Heenan interfered and Bundy was disqualified.  
**OTHER BOUTS:** Randy Savage defeated Tito Santana ... Nikolai Volkoff defeated Cpl. Kirchner ... The British Bulldogs defeated Brett Hart and Jim Neidhart ... Big John Studd beat Tony Atlas.

## HAMPTON, VA By Paul Hundley



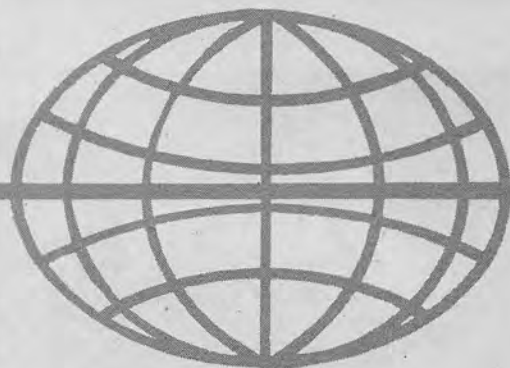
**MAGNUM T.A.**  
vs.  
**NIKITA KOLOFF**



In this no-disqualification match, Nikita attacked T.A. before the bell rang and slammed his head into the ringpost. The two battled furiously for about 15 minutes until Magnum caught the Russian in a belly-to-belly suplex that inadvertently knocked the referee from the ring. Ivan Koloff, standing at ringside, took his chain and hit T.A. on the back of the head. Ivan rolled the ref in the ring, who counted a pin. But Wahoo McDaniel ran in, explained what happened, and the match continued. T.A. quickly scored a small package pin on Nikita.  
**OTHER BOUTS:** Ric Flair beat Dusty Rhodes by disqualification ... Wahoo McDaniel beat Tully Blanchard ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated Ivan Koloff & Baron Von Raschke ... Misty Blue beat Linda Dallas.



# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## MONTREAL, QUEBEC By Bill Marchesin



**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**  
vs.  
**KAREEM MUHAMMAD**



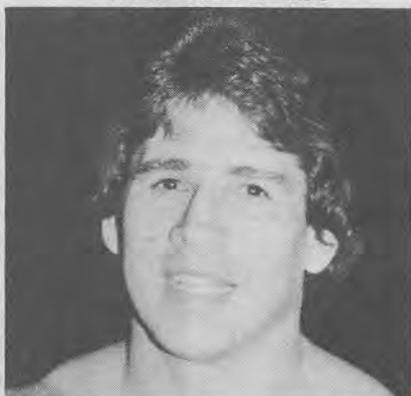
The two big men locked themselves in one of the wildest bouts ever to take place in Montreal. Muhammad cut the Butcher's forehead open with punches. However Abdullah—supported by the crowd—used some sort of foreign object to bloody Muhammad. Abdullah finally headbutted and elbowsmashed Muhammad to win the brutal match.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Stan Hansen was disqualified against Rick Martel in an AWA title defense ... Alofa beat The Spoiler ... The Long Riders beat Nick DeCarlo and Gino Brito Jr. ... Ron Ritchie beat Sheik Ali ... Steve Strong beat Tom Zenk.

## PHILADELPHIA, PA By Eric Cholminski



**RANDY SAVAGE**  
vs.  
**TITO SANTANA**



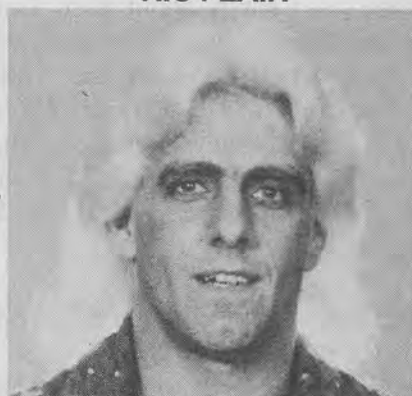
The Spectrum was on fire as Intercontinental titlist Savage squared off against former titleholder Santana. The two combatants slugged it out for some time until finally, in his haste to reach Santana, Savage slugged the referee and was disqualified. After the bout, it was announced that Savage had been banned from wrestling in Philadelphia until he gave Santana a mandatory rematch at The Spectrum. Savage agreed, and the two signed to wrestle a no-DQ match.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Hulk Hogan & Paul Orndorff beat King Kong Bundy & Magnificent Muraco ... Hercules Hernandez and King Tonga resulted in a double-countout ... Greg Valentine pinned Davey Boy Smith ... Dynamite Kid pinned Brutus Beefcake ... Jim Brunzell pinned Tiger Chung Lee.

## RICHMOND, VA By Robert Langston



**RICK MORTON**  
vs.  
**RIC FLAIR**



The NWA title was at stake in this exciting matchup. Morton took control in the beginning, stunning the champion with dropkicks, punches, and sleeperholds. Arn Anderson came to the ring on behalf of Flair, and Robert Gibson soon appeared at ringside to even the odds and prevent interference. Flair and Morton's battle spilled out to the arena floor, and the referee counted both men out of the ring.

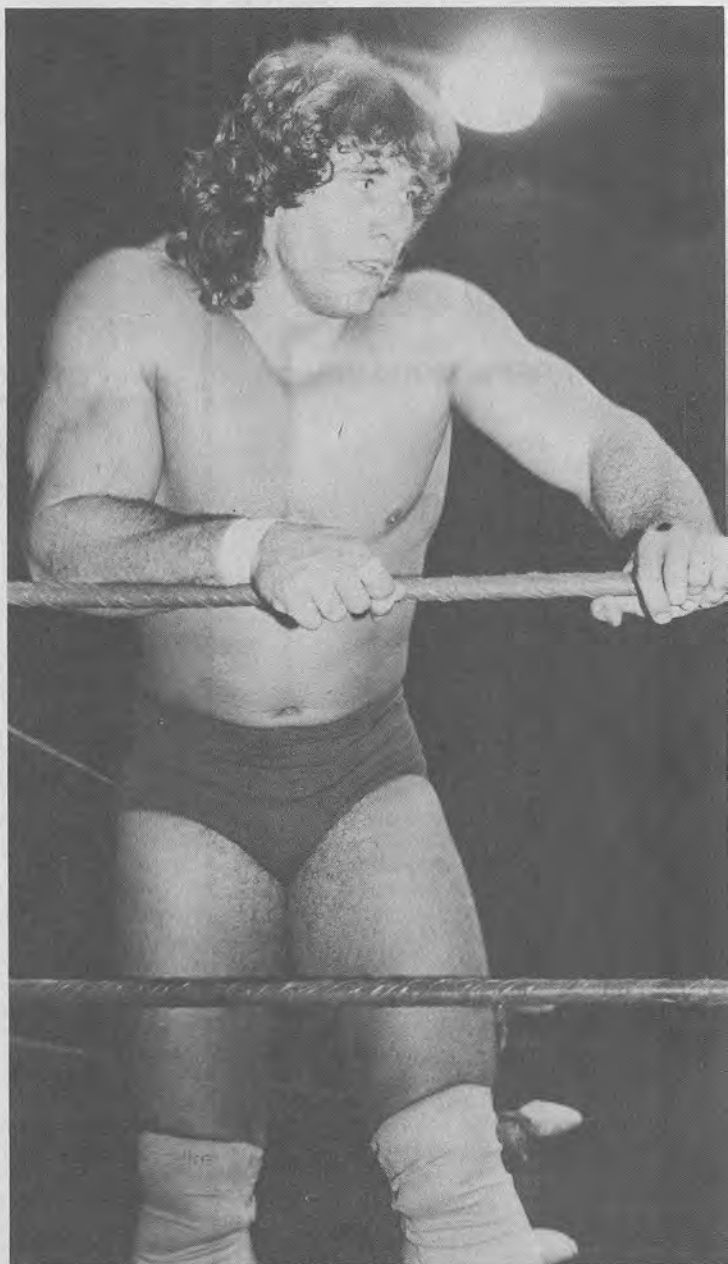
**OTHER BOUTS:** Hector Guerrero defeated Black Bart ... Wahoo McDaniel defeated Jimmy Garvin ... Ronnie Garvin defeated Tully Blanchard by disqualification ... Robert Gibson defeated Arn Anderson ... Jimmy Valiant defeated Shaska Whatley ... Magnum T.A. defeated Nikita Koloff.



# Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

**ATLANTA, GA:** Imagine a physical cross between Road Warrior Hawk and Road Warrior Animal, and you have an idea of this new fellow known as The Warlord. The good news: Warlord is powerful as hell. The bad news: By comparison, he makes Teijho Khan look like Ric Flair. This fellow needs training *desperately*. Baby Doll is accompanying him to the ring, so perhaps she might be able to enlist the aid of Dusty Rhodes or Magnum T.A. or maybe even the Warriors themselves in helping to show this guy a few moves. Then again, I have a hunch that nobody's too happy about Baby Doll's involvement here, particularly Dusty. Not from what's been said, but from what's *not* been said. I phoned Dusty to ask him about The Warlord. He said "no comment." I asked Baby Doll about The Warlord. She referred me to Dusty. I asked T.A. about The Warlord, and he did the same thing. What the hell's going on here?

**DENTON, TX:** Good Lord. I can't believe I'm about to type the item I'm about to type. But I am. And it amazes me. Some of the older readers among you may remember Joe Btfsplk—no, that's not a typo, that really was the spelling of his name. He was the character in the Li'l Abner comic strip who used to walk around with a dark cloud over his head all the time. Gloom and doom were his soulmates. And I'm beginning to think he was kinfolk to the Von Erichs. I strongly recommend the October 1986 edition of *The Wrestler* for a complete account of Kerry Von Erich's motorcycle accident—the one that will probably keep him out of the sport for at least a year, and that may in fact keep him out of the sport forever. But in just a few years: David died of acute enteritis, Mike nearly died from toxic shock syndrome, and now this. Kevin's been sidelined with a shoulder injury, and Lance appears to be the only



**KERRY VON ERICH**



## Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

healthy one of the bunch. Damn, I wish there was something I could do to bring a year of quiet peace and contentment to the Von Erichs—they sure as hell deserve it. But meanwhile, in a more practical vein, the loss of Kerry from active wrestling continues a trend on the World Class area whereby they've been losing significant amounts of ring talent. Attention World Class officials: I don't think too many fans would think you foolish to renege on your secession from the NWA. Think about it.

**NEW ORLEANS, LA:** Maybe it's the sad misfortune of the Von Erichs that's placed me in such a bitchy mood this month, but I have too many gripes on my chest, and I'm getting too old to bear the weight anymore. I mean, come on! One Man Gang and Kamala wrestling as a tag team in the UWF? I don't know about you, folks, but I just can't take a team this slow and lacking in skills that seriously. Sure, they'll win a bunch of matches, and sure, they'll prove to be a strong force in that area against most teams. But this is the area that has been dubbed "tag team mecca." This is the area that has

helped spawn and strengthen such red-hot combinations as The Rock 'n' Roll Express, the Guerreros, The Midnight Express, The Fabulous Ones, and Steve Williams and Ted DiBiase. Now the area includes such formidable combinations as The Fantastics, The Shepherders, and The Fabulous Freebirds. But a team with a combined weight of 762 pounds? Don't make me retch.

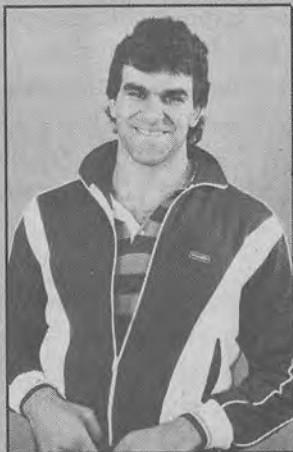
**NEW YORK, NY:** All right, I've gotten a few complaints off my chest, now it's time to get serious. Attendance at wrestling cards is getting thin, and the main thing that drew this to my attention is the fact that Madison Square Garden, the WWF-proclaimed "mecca of professional wrestling," has failed to draw a sellout crowd three months straight: April, May, and June. Indeed, the April show at MSG saw an estimated 40 percent of the seats in the Garden empty—an astounding figure, and the smallest attendance there for wrestling that I can remember. In early June, the Joe Louis Arena in Detroit drew only about 5,000 fans for a major WWF card—the lowest attendance there for wrestling in years, and that came less than two months after a Hulk Hogan-Randy Savage bout packed the place to the rafters and overflowed about 5,000 more to the Cobo arena for closed-circuit TV. And the problem is not limited to the WWF territory: For example, since WrestleRock, the AWA seems to be averaging about 2,000 fans in cities such as Chicago and Oakland, California. I think the SuperCards of 1986 (WrestleMania 2, WrestleRock, the Crockett Cup tag team tournament, and the Texas Stadium Parade of Champions) gave fans their fill of the sport for a while. It seems that in the weeks immediately following these cards, attendance in the respective areas has been way down. Another thought: I have to give Jim Crockett Promotions a lot of credit for courage in the promotion of the Great American Bash series. They're holding most of them in 50,000-plus venues like Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia and the Liberty Bowl in Memphis. Good luck, guys. I have a hunch you're gonna need it! □



KAMALA & OMG VS. TERRY GORDY

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## **ANGELO MOSCA JR.**

"Kids are my number one concern," says Mosca, who retired from wrestling to work with young people. The young Mosca held several regional titles in the South and several Canadian belts and is now the

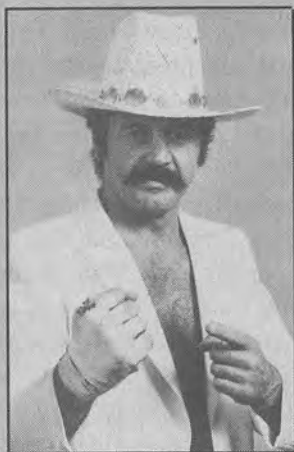
director of sports at the Hamilton, Ontario, YMCA. "I left wrestling because I wanted to concentrate on training kids for sports oriented careers," he says.



## **GENE ANDERSON**

The older brother of Ole and Lars has retired from active competition but has kept his hand in the sport. He is currently employed by Jim Crockett Promotions of Charlotte, North Carolina, as a production

coordinator. Anderson is the liason between the wrestlers and the television crew. "My wrestling experience puts me in a unique position for this job," says Anderson.



## **BLACKJACK LANZA**

Blackjack Lanza has remained involved with wrestling. The man who, along with Blackjack Mulligan, terrorized the wrestling world with their clawholds, is a member of the staff of the World Wrestling Fed-

eration, acting as a field agent. Lanza travels to various WWF cities and makes sure that the arenas, hotels, and all public relations events are in order before the wrestlers arrive.



## **MR. HATORI**

There are a lot of wrestlers who are happy this evil manager is no longer active in the U.S. Hatori, who handled such greats as Kendo Nagasaki, Mr. Saito, and Mr. Fuji, is part-owner of a meat packing firm in New

York City. He is also working as a part-time referee-adviser for the All-Japan Pro Wrestling Association. "Mr. Hatori seems to be very happy," says our source.



# inside wrestling

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## capsule profile

**H**ARLEY RACE RANKS among the most experienced active wrestlers in the sport today, claiming 26 years in the pro ranks with matches against virtually every top opponent over three decades (*"More than having experience, you've got to learn from experience; that's what makes me the great wrestler I am"*) ... Stands 6'1" and weighs 268 pounds ... Made his pro debut in 1960 in Waterloo, Iowa, where he lost his match to Bill Koll (*"Learning to face a loss that early made me hungrier to win in my career"*) ... Is the only man in history to have held the NWA World title on seven occasions, eclipsing by one the record of six held by the legendary Lou Thesz (*"I've proved I'm the best ever; not only the best NWA champion ever, but the best wrestler ever, bar none"*) ... Defeated Dory Funk Jr. for his first NWA title on May 24, 1973 ... Subsequent titles came by defeating Terry Funk, Dusty Rhodes, Shohei Baba, Baba again, Tommy Rich, and Ric Flair (*"I've set a record that no man will be able to surpass"*) ... Race has called that seventh title victory over Flair his greatest match ever (*"It's something I have a right to be proud of"*) ... Signature moves are the brainbuster, the suplex slam, and the piledriver (*"My version of the piledriver, which is more effec-*

## HARLEY RACE



Harley Race executes what he considers to be the premier piledriver in the sport, against Lanny Poffo. Race, who already holds the record for NWA title reigns (seven), might be after Hulk Hogan's WWF World title. Only one man, Buddy Rogers, has held both titles.

*tive than anyone else's, is the best maneuver in wrestling"*) ... Over the course of his career, has held literally dozens of major singles and tag team titles, most recently having held the Missouri title, his seventh reign of that prestigious championship (*"No matter what title I've held, I've been a pace-setting record holder"*) ... Had been attempting to secure a series of challenges against NWA World champion Ric Flair during much of 1985; Race received a few matches, but was viewed mainly as a minor contender

(*"I'm a seven-time champ, so why not eight? Flair's just afraid of me!"*) ... Has called Terry Funk his toughest opponent of all time (*"We've had some rough ones; in fact, I've never had an easy match against a Funk. The Funks have a very competitive nature, a great sense of family pride"*) ... Recently entered the WWF, where the Funks are now wrestling. Both he and the Funks are rulebreakers, however, so it will be interesting to see if "Handsome" Harley can mend the feuds of the past. □

## CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



**HARLEY RACE**

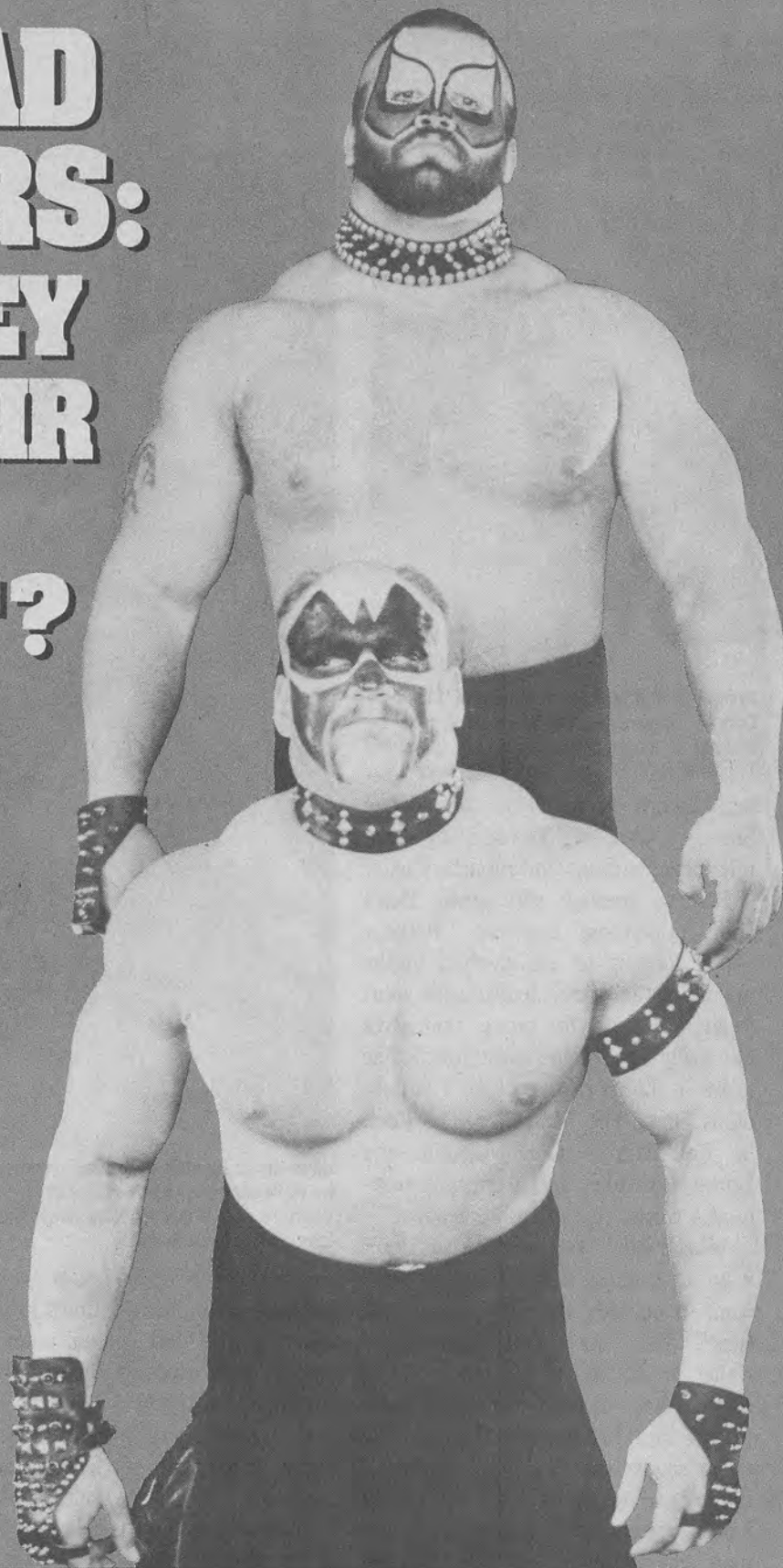


# THE ROAD WARRIORS: HAVE THEY LOST THEIR KILLER INSTINCT?

**J**UST IMAGINE FOR a moment that you control the careers of the two most awesome forces in professional wrestling. A team that has dominated the tag team ratings for as long as they have been professionals. A team that continues to remain number one in the ratings long after they have lost their first world tag team title.

Imagine that you could turn this amazing force loose on any current situation in the sport today. What might you do with them? The possibilities are intriguing.

Perhaps you would send them after Dennis Condrey and Bobby Eaton, The Midnight Express. After all, Condrey and Eaton hold the NWA World tag team title, and are widely regarded as *the* team to beat in the sport today. Wouldn't you want to be the team to beat them? Or you might look toward WWF World tag champs The British Bulldogs, or maybe even AWA World



***Is it possible? Can the toughest, most vicious, most formidable tag team in the sport become just another pair of wrestlers? More to the point, can such a thing happen to Hawk and Animal—The Road Warriors? Shockingly, the evidence suggests it may already have***



Animal succumbs to a series of kicks by Dennis Condrey. The Warriors could be making a major mistake by not pursuing The Midnight Express' NWA tag team title.

tag champs Buddy Rose and Doug Somers. After all, a world tag team title means prestige and monetary gain.

Perhaps prestige and profit aren't your uppermost concerns. Perhaps you're looking to get involved in the middle of the wildest feuds in the sport today, or just to prove yourselves physically against the most formidable teams in the sport, teams like The Fabulous Ones, The Fantastics, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake, and the above-mentioned world championship teams.

What's that you say? You don't want a world tag team title? You don't want to go after the top teams in the sport? Why not? You mean you'd rather go to Japan for a few weeks and not have to deal with *any* of these teams? You'd rather split up and wrestle in singles matches during some of the biggest cards of the entire year? You'd prefer not to defend your six-man championship in title matches during these cards? Are you kidding?

If the previous paragraph seems overly accusatory—well, it is. Because The Road Warriors are professional wrestling's most dominant tag team force, and as we approach The Great American Bash—a summer series of



Hawk finds himself in enemy territory and on the receiving end of a double-team (soon to be triple-team) effort by Ivan Koloff, Baron Von Raschke, and then Nikita Koloff. If The Road Warriors and Dusty Rhodes allow themselves to get rusty as a team, they could very well lose their six-man title.

cards that, for the NWA, is like WrestleMania multiplied 15 times in significance—Hawk and Animal seem to be placing themselves in the background for the Bash cards.

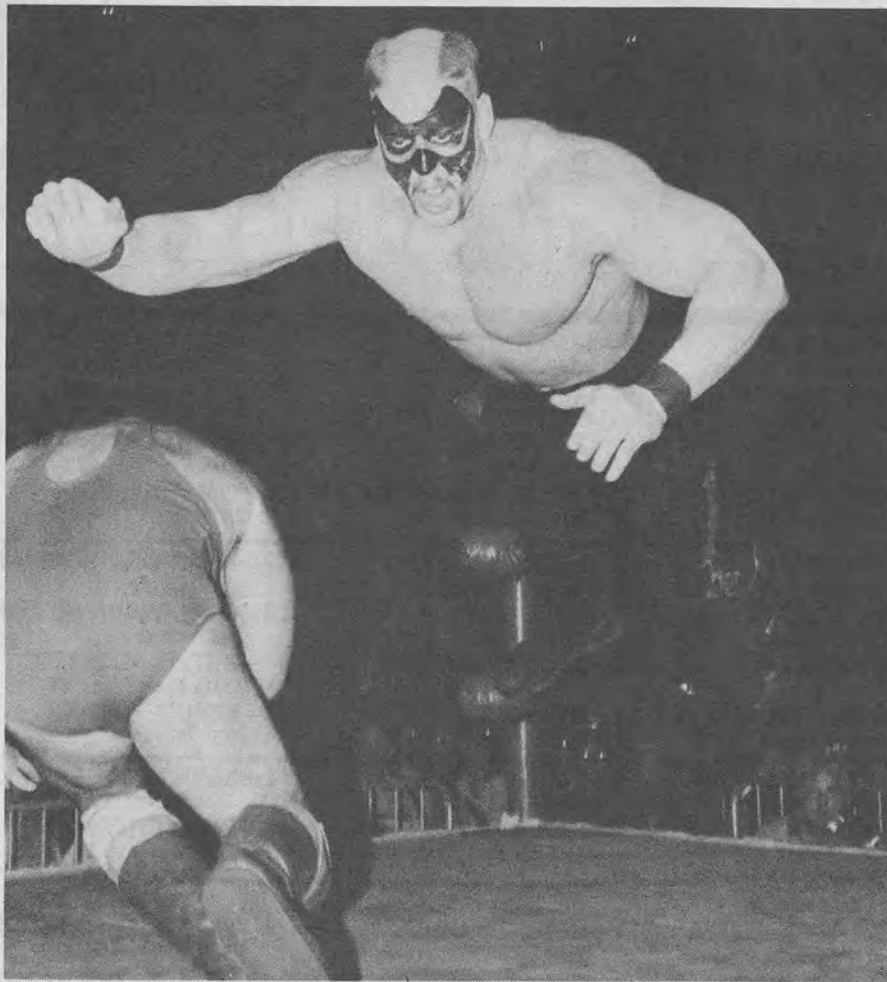
Consider: As of press time, we are aware of the cards for five of the Bash cards. On July 1 in Philadelphia, the Warriors split up as Hawk wrestles NWA World champion Ric Flair; on July 9 in Cincinnati, Animal wrestles Flair; on July 10 in Charleston, West Virginia, a six-man title match between champions Hawk, Animal, and Dusty Rhodes and the team of Ivan and Nikita Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev—the *only* title match of the five

cards we have; in the other matches, the Warriors team with Magnum T.A. (July 3 in Washington, D.C.) and Paul Ellering (July 11 in Roanoke, Virginia) for six-man *non-title* matches.

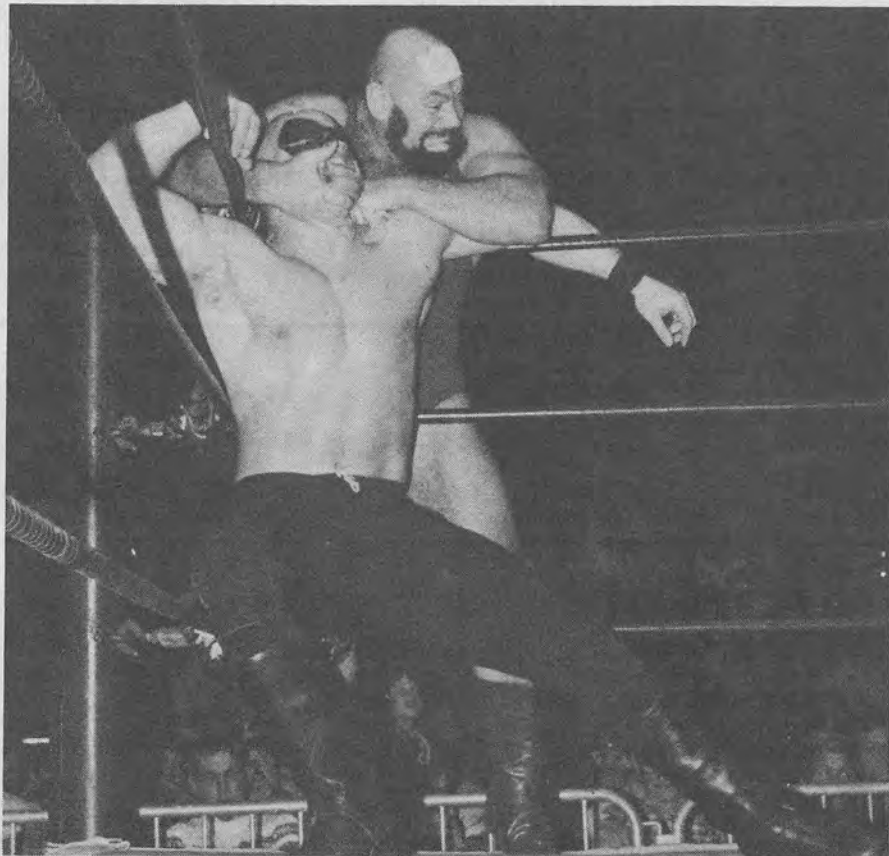
Now we do not mean to deny the possibility that the Animal-Flair and Hawk-Flair matches will be exciting bouts. But the matches that the Warriors are getting involved in for the Bash series raise certain important questions.

First of all, why would Paul Ellering split his team up to face Flair in singles matches? It is highly unlikely that either Hawk or Animal will be able to unseat Flair after just one match, and





Perhaps preoccupied by interests outside of their specialty, The Road Warriors do not appear to be as sharp as they once did. Ivan Koloff deftly ducks under Hawk's attempted flying clothesline (above). Ivan sinks his knuckles into Hawk's throat (below).



Bobby Eaton flings Animal into the ropes. The Road Warriors have never held the NWA World tag team title.

the Warriors have virtually ignored singles wrestling strategies throughout their career.

Secondly, the Warriors are co-holders of the NWA six-man title (along with Dusty). So why are they involved in only one title match out of five cards?

And maybe the biggest question of all: Why didn't Paul Ellering, one of the most brilliant strategists in the sport, press for a strong series of tag team matches against NWA World tag team champs The Midnight Express? As we go to press, not one of the Bash cards will see that match take place.

This becomes all the more disturbing in light of the fact that the Warriors had been wrestling the Express regularly just a month or so prior to the announcement of the Bash dates. Hawk and Animal had failed to capture the NWA tag team belts in those matches, and now . . .

. . . and now they've given up?

Impossible. Or so one would think, though Hawk and Animal are certainly  
(Continued on page 64)

# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis, MN   | 4— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>245, Sarasota, FL     | 8— <b>TERRY GORDY</b><br>289, Chatanooga, TN       | 12— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>275, Moscow, Russia |
| 2— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>305, Venice Beach, CA | 5— <b>MAGNUM T.A.</b><br>245, Chesapeake, VA    | 9— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>246, Robbinsdale, MN        | 13— <b>TERRY TAYLOR</b><br>225, Vero Beach, FL  |
| 3— <b>STAN HANSEN</b><br>322, Borger, TX      | 6— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>302, Austin, TX       | 10— <b>LEX LUGAR</b><br>280, Chicago, IL           | 14— <b>BARRY WINDHAM</b><br>236, Sweetwater, TX |
|   | 7— <b>BRUISER BRODY</b><br>284, Albuquerque, NM | 11— <b>TULLY BLANCHARD</b><br>235, San Antonio, TX | 15— <b>TED DIBIASE</b><br>247, Omaha, NB        |

## NWA

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis, MN       | 4— <b>RICK MORTON</b><br>228, Memphis, TN      | 8— <b>TERRY GORDY</b><br>289, Chatanooga, TN     | 12— <b>ROAD WARRIOR HAWK</b><br>279, Chicago, IL    |
| 2— <b>MAGNUM T.A.</b><br>245, Chesapeake, VA      | 5— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>275, Moscow, Russia | 9— <b>LEX LUGAR</b><br>280, Chicago              | 13— <b>ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL</b><br>288, Chicago, IL  |
| 3— <b>TULLY BLANCHARD</b><br>235, San Antonio, TX | 6— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>302, Austin, TX      | 10— <b>BRUISER BRODY</b><br>284, Albuquerque, NM | 14— <b>SGT. SLAUGHTER</b><br>310, Parris Island, SC |
|   | 7— <b>BARRY WINDHAM</b><br>236, Sweetwater, TX | 11— <b>RIP OLIVER</b><br>245, Tampa, FL          | 15— <b>RONNIE GARVIN</b><br>231, Montreal, Quebec   |

## AWA

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1— <b>STAN HANSEN</b><br>322, Borger, TX           | 4— <b>NICK BOCKWINKEL</b><br>245, Beverly Hills, CA | 8— <b>COL. DeBEERS</b><br>248, South Africa       | 12— <b>LEON WHITE</b><br>303, Denver, CO               |
| 2— <b>SGT. SLAUGHTER</b><br>310, Parris Island, SC | 5— <b>BRUISER BRODY</b><br>284, Albuquerque, NM     | 9— <b>RICK MARTEL</b><br>236, Quebec City, Quebec | 13— <b>BRAD RHEINGANS</b><br>248, Appleton, MN         |
| 3— <b>LARRY ZBYSZKO</b><br>248, Pittsburgh, PA     | 6— <b>SCOTT HALL</b><br>290, Minneapolis, MN        | 10— <b>JIMMY SNUKA</b><br>251, Fiji Islands       | 14— <b>GREG GAGNE</b><br>220, Robbinsdale, MN          |
|  | 7— <b>NORD THE BARBARIAN</b><br>316, parts unknown  | 11— <b>BORIS ZUKHOV</b><br>254, Leningrad, Russia | 15— <b>EARTHQUAKE FERRIS</b><br>380, San Francisco, CA |

## WWF

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>305, Venice Beach, CA | 4— <b>MAGNIFICENT MURACO</b><br>274, Sunset Beach, HI | 8— <b>JOHN STUDD</b><br>364, Washington, DC          | 12— <b>BRUNO SAMMARTINO</b><br>247, Pittsburgh, PA |
| 2— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>245, Sarasota, FL   | 5— <b>JAKE ROBERTS</b><br>246, Stone Mountain, GA     | 9— <b>JUNKYARD DOG</b><br>260, New Orleans, LA       | 13— <b>PAUL ORNDORFF</b><br>253, Brandon, FL       |
| 3— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>238, Honolulu, HI | 6— <b>ADRIAN ADONIS</b><br>303, New York, NY          | 10— <b>KING KONG BUNDY</b><br>446, Atlantic City, NJ | 14— <b>HARLEY RACE</b><br>253, Kansas City, MO     |
|   | 7— <b>TITO SANTANA</b><br>245, Mission, TX            | 11— <b>CPL. KIRCHNER</b><br>240, Ft. Bragg, NC       | 15— <b>KING TONGA</b><br>275, Tonga                |

## MOST POPULAR

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>305, Venice Beach, CA | 4— <b>MAGNUM T.A.</b><br>245, Chesapeake, VA     | 8— <b>TERRY TAYLOR</b><br>225, Vero Beach, FL      | 12— <b>TED DIBIASE</b><br>247, Omaha, NB        |
| 2— <b>RICK MORTON</b><br>228, Memphis, TN     | 5— <b>HACKSAW DUGGAN</b><br>280, Glens Falls, NY | 9— <b>BUDDY LANDELL</b><br>236, Los Angeles, CA    | 13— <b>SCOTT HALL</b><br>290, Minneapolis, MN   |
| 3— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>238, Honolulu, HI | 6— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>302, Austin, TX        | 10— <b>BRUNO SAMMARTINO</b><br>247, Pittsburgh, PA | 14— <b>JUNKYARD DOG</b><br>260, New Orleans, LA |
|   | 7— <b>LEX LUGAR</b><br>280, Chicago, IL          | 11— <b>BARRY WINDHAM</b><br>230, Sweetwater, TX    | 15— <b>KEVIN VON ERICH</b><br>239, Denton, TX   |

## MOST HATED

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis        | 4— <b>JAKE ROBERTS</b><br>246, Stone Mountain, GA | 8— <b>STAN HANSEN</b><br>322, Borger, TX             | 12— <b>TULLY BLANCHARD</b><br>235, San Antonio, TX     |
| 2— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>245, Sarasota, FL    | 5— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>246, Robbinsdale, MN       | 9— <b>ADRIAN ADONIS</b><br>303, New York, NY         | 13— <b>LARRY ZBYSZKO</b><br>248, Pittsburgh, PA        |
| 3— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>275, Moscow, Russia | 6— <b>TERRY GORDY</b><br>289, Chatanooga, TN      | 10— <b>KING KONG BUNDY</b><br>446, Atlantic City, NJ | 14— <b>BILL DUNDEE</b><br>214, Melbourne, Australia    |
|  | 7— <b>JIM GARVIN</b><br>235, Tampa, FL            | 11— <b>MICHAEL HAYES</b><br>255, Marietta, GA        | 15— <b>MAGNIFICENT MURACO</b><br>274, Sunset Beach, HI |

## TAG TEAMS

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1— <b>THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS</b><br>NWA World tag team champions                | 6— <b>BRETT HART &amp; JIM NEIDHART</b><br>No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title | 11— <b>THE FABULOUS ONES</b><br>No. 2 contenders to UWF tag team title                    |
| 2— <b>THE BRITISH BULLDOGS</b><br>WWF World tag team champions                | 7— <b>THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS</b><br>No. 1 contenders to UWF tag team title        | 12— <b>STEVE WILLIAMS &amp; TED DIBIASE</b><br>No. 3 contenders to UWF tag team title     |
| 3— <b>THE ROAD WARRIORS</b><br>No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag title        | 8— <b>PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE &amp; DOUG SOMERS</b><br>AWA World tag team champions    | 13— <b>IRON SHEIK &amp; NIKOLAI VOLKOFF</b><br>No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title     |
| 4— <b>THE FANTASTICS</b><br>UWF tag team champions                            | 9— <b>THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS</b><br>No. 2 contenders to AWA tag team title          | 14— <b>TIGER CONWAY JR. &amp; ICEMAN PARSONS</b><br>Texas All-Star USA tag team champions |
| 5— <b>THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS</b><br>No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title | 10— <b>THE SHEPHERDERS</b><br>No. 2 contenders to UWF tag team title              | 15— <b>BART &amp; BRAD BATTEN</b><br>No. 1 contenders to vacant World Class tag title     |



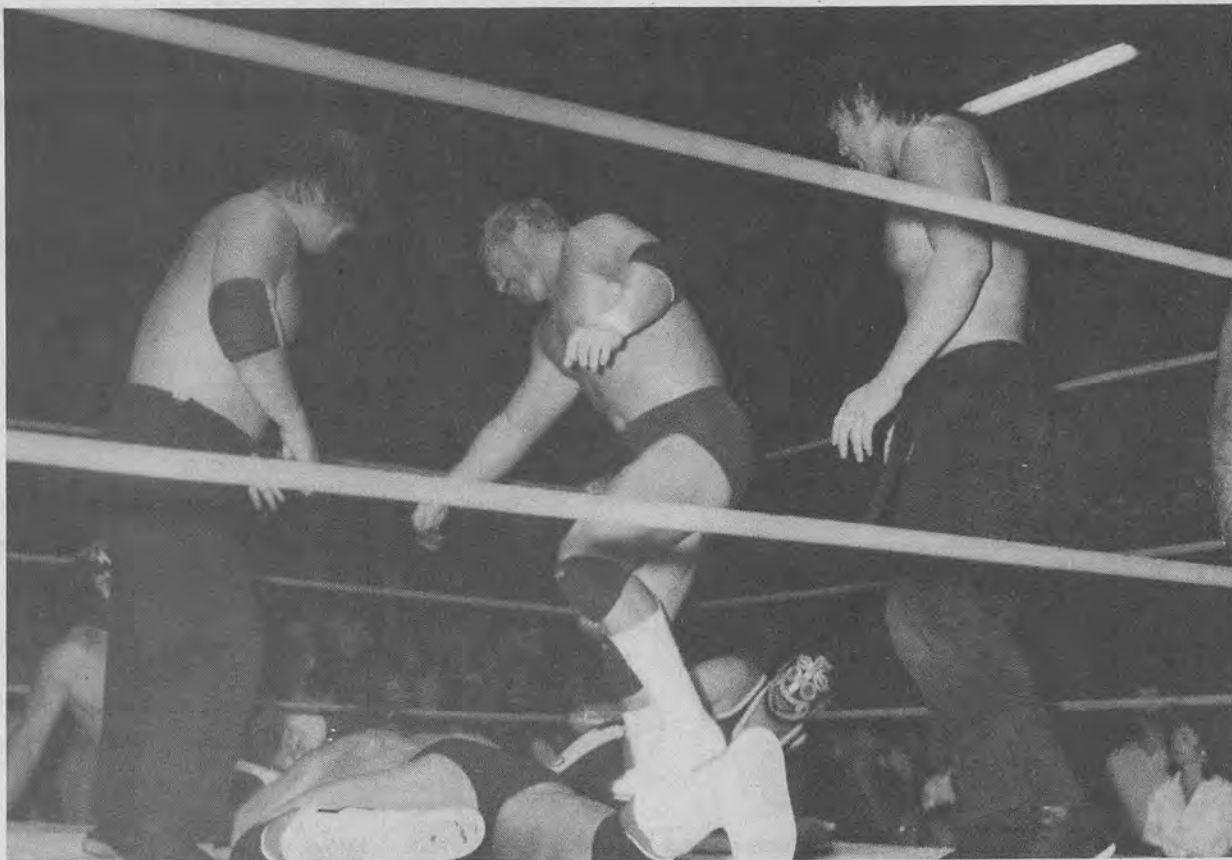
These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place . . . Though several Canadian and Japanese championships are listed in the "Roll Call," the ratings themselves reflect United States-based competition.

For period ended June 25, 1986

# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

- ALABAMA CHAMPION: JERRY STUBBS**  
(February 24, 1986; from Roberto Soto; Birmingham, AL)
- ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**TAKASHI ISHIKAWA & MIGHTY INOUE**  
(October 31, 1985; from Isamu Teranishi & Animal Hamaguchi; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**  
(August 31, 1983; from Bruiser Brody; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**RIKI CHOSU & YOSHIKI YATSU**  
(February 5, 1986; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Tenryu; Osaka, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Tiger Mask)
- ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: GENICHIRO TENRYU**  
(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)
- AWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DIVINE**  
(January 16, 1986; from Sheri Martel; Winnipeg, Canada)
- AWA WORLD CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN**  
(December 29, 1985; from Rick Martel; East Rutherford, NJ)
- AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS**  
(May 17, 1986; from Scott Hall & Curt Hennig; Hammond, IN)
- AMERICAS CHAMPION: SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
(June 21, 1985; from Larry Zbyszko; Chicago)
- \* **BAHAMAS CHAMPION: LEX LUGAR**  
(June 13, 1986; from Ron Bass; Nassau, Bahamas)
- CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: DINO BRAVO**  
(May 28, 1985; defeated King Tonga to fill vacant title; Montreal)
- CANADIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by The Long Riders)
- CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: BOB BROWN**  
(December 17, 1985; from Brett Sawyer; Ames, IA)
- \* **CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RUFUS R. JONES & MIKE GEORGE**  
(June 15, 1986; from Hacksaw Higgins & J.R. Hogg; Sedalia, MO)
- CENTRAL STATES TV CHAMPION: MIKE GEORGE**  
(May 23, 1986; over Akio Saito; St. Joseph, MO)
- FLORIDA CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by The White Ninja)
- INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING GRAND PRIX CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI**  
(June 14, 1984; tournament final over Hulk Hogan; Japan)
- IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TATSUMI FUJINAMI & KENGO KIMURA**  
(December 12, 1985; tourney final over Inoki & Sakaguchi; Sendai, Japan)
- IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHIRO KOSHINAKA**  
(February 6, 1986; tourney final over The Cobra; Tokyo)
- JAPANESE WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE CRUSH GIRLS**  
(March 20, 1986; from Itzumi Yanzaki & Noriyo Tateno; Osaka, Japan)
- \* **MID-AMERICAN CHAMPION: DUTCH MANTELL**  
(June 15, 1986; from Rip Rogers; Memphis, TN)
- MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPION: BLACK BART**  
(March 18, 1986; from Sam Houston; Mooresville, NC)
- \* **MID-SOUTHERN CHAMPION: BUDDY LANDELL**  
(June 15, 1986; tournament final over The Flame; Memphis, TN)
- MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BILL DUNDEE**  
(May 5, 1986; from Billy Travis; Memphis, TN)
- \* **MID-SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JERRY LAWLER & HILLBILLY ELMER**  
(June 17, 1986; from The M.O.D. Squad; Louisville, KY)
- MISSOURI CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Harley Race)
- NATIONAL CHAMPION: TULLY BLANCHARD**  
(March 4, 1986; from Dusty Rhodes; Spartanburg, SC)
- NATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Ole & Arn Anderson)
- NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNY BROWN**  
(September 15, 1985; from Gary Royal; Atlanta)
- NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS & DUSTY RHODES**  
(May 17, 1986; from Ivan & Nikita Koloff and Baron Von Raschke; Baltimore)
- NWA TV CHAMPION: ARN ANDERSON**  
(January 4, 1986; tournament final over Wahoo McDaniel; Charlotte, NC)
- NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR**  
(May 24, 1984; from Kerry Von Erich; Yokosuka City, Japan)
- NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**  
(February 2, 1986; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Atlanta)
- \* **PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: RIP OLIVER**  
(June 13, 1986; battle royal tournament; Portland, OR)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRADY BOONE & COCOA SAMOA**  
(March 25, 1986; from The Assassin & Bobby Jagers; Portland, OR)
- PWF CHAMPION: RIKI CHOSU**  
(April 5, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Yokohama, Japan)
- PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & TED DIBIASE**  
(as mandated by PWF wrestling officials)
- POLYNESIAN PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUPERFLY TUI**  
(March 26, 1986; from Jerry Lawler; Honolulu)
- POLYNESIAN PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**  
**FARMER BOY IPO & LEROY BROWN**  
(April 16, 1986; from Rocky & Ricky Johnson; Honolulu, HI)
- SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: WENDELL COOLEY**  
(March 31, 1986; from Exotic Adrian Street; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: JERRY STUBBS**  
(May 12, 1986; from Brad Armstrong; Birmingham, AL)
- \* **SOUTHEAST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE ARMSTRONG & TOMMY RICH**  
(June 9, 1986; from Robert Fuller & Jimmy Golden; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TIM HORNER**  
(May 19, 1986; from Tom Pritchard; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHERN CHAMPION: LEX LUGAR**  
(February 14, 1985; from Jesse Barr; Orlando, FL)
- TEXAS ALL-STAR USA U.S. CHAMPION: AL MADRIL**  
(April 18, 1986; from Austin Idol; Pasadena, TX)
- \* **TEXAS ALL-STAR USA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOMMY WRIGHT**  
(June 15, 1986; from Al Gaughan; San Antonio, TX)
- TEXAS ALL-STAR USA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TIGER CONWAY JR. & ICEMAN PARSONS**  
(May 23, 1986; from Al Madril & Mike Golden; Houston, TX)
- U.S. CHAMPION: MAGNUM T.A.**  
(November 28, 1985; from Tully Blanchard; Greensboro, NC)
- U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Billy Jack Haynes & Wahoo McDaniel)
- \* **UWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TERRY GORDY**  
(May 30, 1986; tournament final over Hacksaw Duggan; Houston, TX)
- UWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE FANTASTICS**  
(March 30, 1986; from The Shepherders; Tulsa, OK)
- UWF TV CHAMPION: TERRY TAYLOR**  
(May 25, 1986; from Buzz Sawyer; Tulsa, OK)
- WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: RICK RUDE**  
(November 4, 1985; from Iceman Parsons; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS: KEVIN, LANCE, & MIKE VON ERICH**  
(May 4, 1986; from The Fabulous Freebirds; Irving, TX)
- WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Chris Adams & Gino Hernandez)
- \* **WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: BUZZ SAWYER**  
(June 16, 1986; from Chris Adams; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: BRIAN ADIDAS**  
(March 10, 1986; from The Grappler; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: THE FABULOUS MOOLAH**  
(November 25, 1985; from Wendi Richter; New York)
- WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN**  
(August 1985; from Desiree Petersen & Velvet McIntyre; Egypt)
- WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: INVADER III**  
(May 4, 1986; from Chicky Starr; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Al Perez)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHICKY & RON STARR**  
(May 2, 1986; from Invaders I & III; Fagardo, Puerto Rico)
- \* **WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY**  
(June 1, 1986; from Super Medic; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)
- WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE RPMs**  
(March 28, 1986; tournament final over Eric Embry & Crusher Morgan; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Carlos Colon)
- WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE**  
(February 8, 1986; from Tito Santana; Boston)
- WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN**  
(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York)
- WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**  
(April 7, 1986; from Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake; Rosemont, IL)

## The NWA Championship Sinks To A New Low:



## RIC FLAIR NEEDS 10 THUGS

**“THE FACT THAT Ric Flair** went back to the dressing room after the first fall, instead of staying in the ring, is indisputable proof that he was behind the whole thing. He only had five minutes between falls, and there was no reason for him to go back. He wasn't hurt, he didn't seem tired, and Luger stayed, so why didn't Flair?”

Bob Roop was acting like a lawyer as he paced back and forth across the room, the memory of the ugly incident in which his wrestler, Lex Luger, was brutally assaulted by 10 men only feeding

his nervous energy. Exhibit A: Flair goes back to the dressing room. Exhibit B: He doesn't return after five minutes, but after 10 minutes, apparently knowing there is something going on in the ring. Exhibit C: In an interview afterward, Flair seems to know too much about what happened for a person who was not there.

“Indisputable proof,” Roop said. “Ric Flair needed 10 thugs to defeat Lex Luger! But go ahead, don't take my word for it. Check it out. Talk to Flair, Luger, the ref, that slime Humperdink, anybody you want. This guy holds

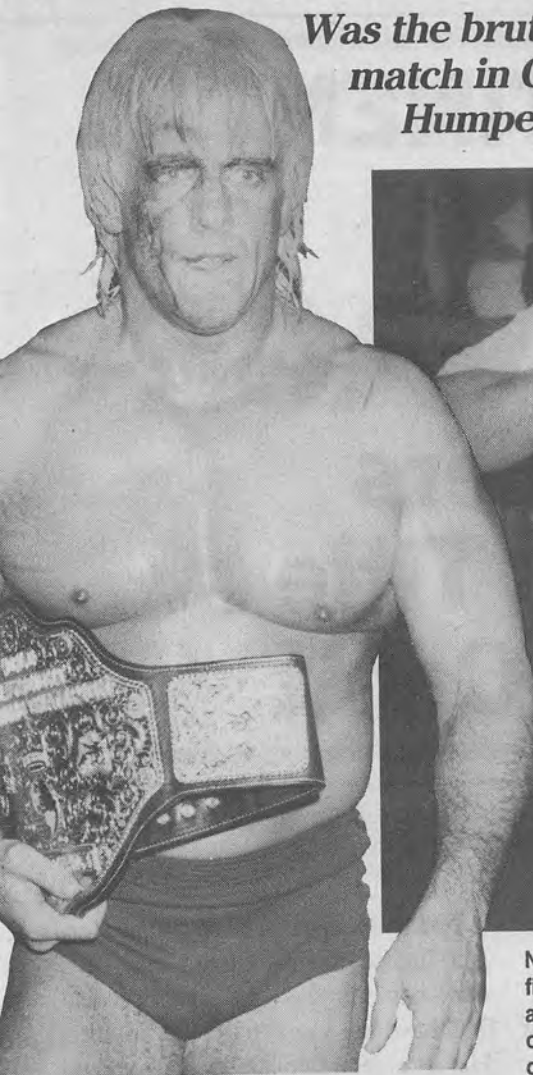
the most prestigious title in the world and he can't take care of himself.”

The match in question was scheduled for two out of three falls with a five-minute rest period between falls. Luger, the Southern champion, outbattled and outwrestled Flair, the NWA World champion, in the first fall and used a clothesline to score the pin. Luger's performance was a stunning display of strength and skill, and Flair did little to stop the challenger's attack.

But between falls, Flair returned to the dressing room while Luger



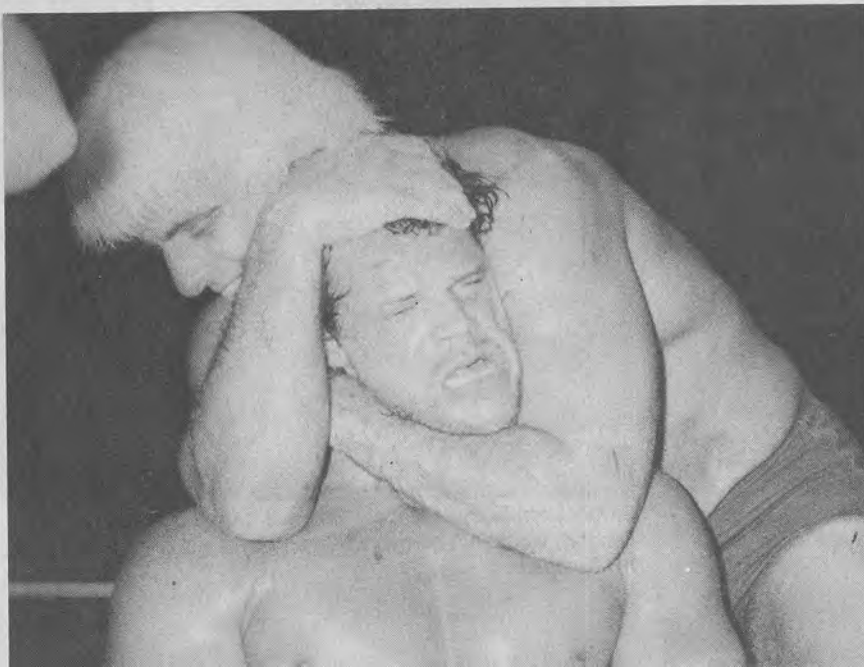
***Was the brutal mugging of Lex Luger between falls of a recent match in Orlando the work of Ric Flair—or did Sir Oliver Humperdink and his men act on their own volition?***



NWA World champion Ric Flair returns to the dressing room with his belt after losing the first fall of his title match against Lex Luger (left). Kendo Nagasaki, Ed "The Bull" Gantner, and The White Ninja, among others, assault Luger between falls (far left). Luger, who was on the verge of winning the title, has to be helped back to the dressing room by Florida official Danny Miller and manager Bob Roop (above).

## TO DEFEAT LEX LUGAR!

*Photos by Duane Long & Paul Bauman*



remained in the ring. Suddenly, Sir Oliver Humperdink, Ron Bass, Kendo Nagasaki, the White Ninja, and six masked men ran into the ring and proceeded to mug Luger, hitting him in the throat with a series of seven karate thrusts.

Then, Barry Windham who had a cast on his left knee and was using crutches as the result of injuries suffered days earlier, tried to run into the ring to help out. As he tried to go over the ropes, Bass grabbed him and reinjured his knee.

Luger suffered a horrible beat-  
(Continued on page 56)

# WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION

## RANDY SAVAGE

### Five Contenders Who Can Take His Title . . . And Five Who Can't

#### Five Contenders Who Could Capture Savage's Title

**Rick Steamboat.** "The Dragon" would be an ideal opponent for Savage. We wonder how Savage's aerial tactics would fare against Rick's martial arts. A poll of our staff picks Rick over Randy by a 7-2 margin. Steamboat is also a superb scientific grappler, and would be in a good position to score the pinfall should he be able to keep Savage off the turnbuckles and down on the mat.

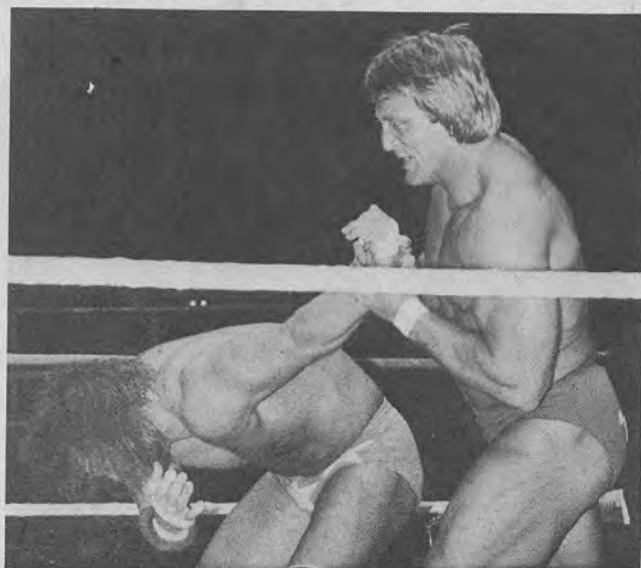
**Paul Orndorff.** There are few men in the WWF who are capable of overpowering and outmuscling Savage; Orndorff is one of them. Both men possess incredible strength, and "Mr. Wonderful" would hardly be annoyed by Savage's egotistical pre-match preening—Orndorff obviously understands such psychological tactics. An Orndorff-Savage series would be a WWF classic.

**Pedro Morales.** The two-time former Intercontinental champ may be a dark horse in this race, but he could well have the heart to go the distance. His style is unfamiliar to Savage, and Pedro has experience to spare. Savage would find Pedro a surprisingly difficult opponent to conquer.

**Jake Roberts.** Though the WWF might balk at a rulebreaker vs. rulebreaker matchup, Roberts is just



Magnificent Muraco braces himself for a Rick Steamboat karate thrust. Steamboat has the wrestling skills to negate Savage's strengths.



Savage bends over in pain as Paul Orndorff twists his wrist. Orndorff would not be overwhelmed physically or psychologically by Savage.



**R**ANDY SAVAGE IS in a very strange position. He is the only man in the WWF who is both contender and champion. As contender, he looks to WWF champion Hulk Hogan and covets the heavyweight belt that has helped catapult the Hulkster to international superstardom.

As Intercontinental champion, however, Savage finds himself on the defensive. The list of wrestlers hoping to take Savage's title is equally as impressive as those waiting to dethrone Hogan.

In this feature, *Inside Wrestling* looks at five men who have the greatest potential to dethrone Savage, and points out five more who have had more than their fair share of title shots and should give up the quest for Intercontinental gold.

sneaky enough and just experienced enough to slither around Savage's off-the-ropes tactics and maintain a strong advantage in a title match. If the match were to be made, Roberts' DDT would be a far more formidable weapon than Savage's flying fistsmash from the ropes. A former North American champion, Jake is capable of capturing a major title. A challenge to Savage would be not only intriguing, but would also carry a high likelihood of success.

*(Continued on page 58)*



Pedro Morales, grabbing Greg Valentine by the hair, has the heart to become the first three-time champion.



# HOTSEAT

## VERNE GAGNE:

### "WE TRY TO HOLD TO THE SCIENCE OF WRESTLING"

**T**HE APRIL 1986 edition of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* included a "Press Conference" with NWA promoter Jim Crockett. The April 1986 edition of *Inside Wrestling* included a "Hotseat" with UWF President Bill Watts. Now it's time for the AWA to step forward and take a bow.

Verne Gagne is a man of many titles. Call him the only man to have held a world title—the AWA World championship—on no fewer than nine different occasions. Call him one of the greatest scientific grapplers of all time. Call him the founder of one of the most prestigious wrestling schools in the world: The Verne Gagne Wrestling School. Call him the Executive Producer of *AWA Championship Wrestling*, telecast on the ESPN all-sports cable network.

Whatever you choose to call him, know that he lives and breathes wrestling—particularly AWA wrestling, a variety that is long on science and short on gimmicky promotion.

*Inside Wrestling* Senior Editor Bill Apter recently spoke with Gagne about the Verne Gagne school, the role of ESPN in today's wrestling world, and the changes that have overtaken the sport in the '80s.

**Q:** The AWA on ESPN has been a big breakthrough. We know that a lot of different federations, including the WWF and the NWA, were trying to get a time slot on that station. How did the AWA get that great spot?

**A:** Well, very simple, really. We had

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**I think it's been as good for us as it has been for ESPN. It seems to be a good marriage, we're both happy with it. It's given our wrestlers more national exposure.**

”

heard that they were interested in wrestling. So I went to New York and had a meeting with them. We presented our videotapes and the personnel that we had, and we finally made a deal.

**Q:** The ratings, from what we're told,

have been very good, and we understand now you're going to be doing a live show on ESPN.

**A:** We're going to be doing a few a year. Our first one is in Oakland, next week [Saturday, June 28].

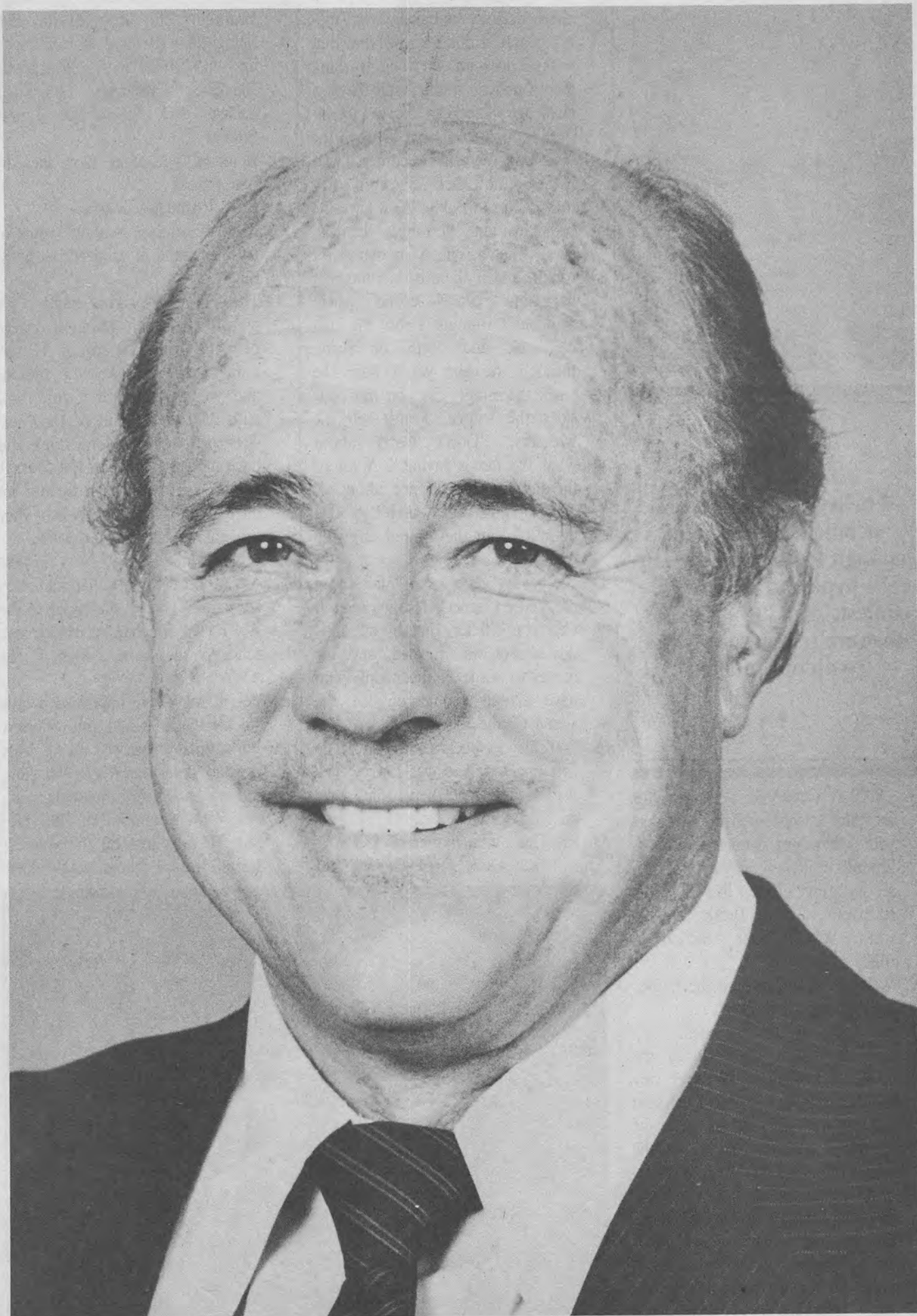
**Q:** This will be the first live AWA show in years. Can you give us an idea what you hope to achieve with a live show?

**A:** Well, I think it's basically to entertain our great fans on ESPN, where they're going to have the chance to see a live event other than from the arena in Las Vegas where we usually do our show. The card will be a little more extensive—it's a two-hour program—but live and direct, that's the difference. The fans will be able to get that spontaneity, that excitement you just can't get anywhere else.

**Q:** How much difference has ESPN made in the AWA?

**A:** I think it's been as good for us as it has been for ESPN. It seems to be a good marriage, we're both happy with it. It's given our wrestlers more national exposure, and international—we're also in England with ESPN.







“

**I believe [the American people] are intelligent enough to discern between the hype and the athletic contest. And if they're not, then we're in a sorry mess with our public.**

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**Q:** The AWA used to be known for the pure science, utilizing wrestlers with extensive amateur backgrounds. But now we're starting to see an influx of men like Nord the Barbarian, Bruiser Brody, and so forth. What's your reaction to this?

**A:** Well, we've always had the Crushers and the Mad Dogs . . .

**Q:** But not really to this extent.

**A:** I think what's happened is the wheel is turning all the way around. I believe people have seen all this far out, rough style of wrestling, and we try to hold to the science of wrestling. We're going to insist on it. And if Brody and those types can't stay within those bounds—we're giving them a lot of leeway the way it is, but I don't think it's really good for wrestling when you see guys going with

chairs up into the balcony challenging people. I don't know what that has to do with wrestling. I think the American public still likes a challenge. I believe they're intelligent enough to discern between the hype and the athletic contest. And if they're not, then we're in a sorry mess with our public. You have the few fans, and you hear them at every match, if a match isn't rough, and if there isn't something happening every second where someone's running across the ring or back and forth or flying through the air, you'll hear the term, "Bor-ing!" So you just consider the source. I just tell the wrestlers, "Don't worry about what the fan is saying." A lot of them enjoy the science about it. Just because they aren't yelling doesn't mean they're not enjoying the match.

**Q:** We always get a lot of mail about the Verne Gagne Wrestling School. Can you tell us, first of all, how this school was formed, and the names of some of the people who have actually come out of the Verne Gagne school?

**A:** Well, it goes back a long way. The first one I trained was Larry "The Ax" Hennig, and then I think Baron Von Raschke . . .

**Q:** Ric Flair, as a matter of fact . . .

**A:** . . . Ric Flair, Greg Gagne, Jim

Brunzell, The Iron Sheik, Sgt. Slaughter—My God, I can go on and on—Buddy Rose, Scott Irwin, Blackjack Mulligan, Blackjack Lanza, Rick Steamboat, Jimmy Snuka . . .

**Q:** A lot of big names. Now the current school . . .

**A:** Brad Rheingans conducts it.

**Q:** Now if someone actually wants to try their hand at professional wrestling . . .

**A:** There is no "try your hand." It's no different than going to college or going to a trade school. There's tuition, and you pay the tuition, and you pay half of it up front. And then at the end of the four-week period, if we don't think you have a future, we don't encourage you to go on. A lot drop out on their own. It's not what they thought it was. It's too hard.

**Q:** When Hulk Hogan was in the AWA, he became a national star. He left, of course, and went to the WWF. Do you feel he would have achieved the same things in the AWA?

**A:** Yes. It may have happened a little quicker being based out of New York, but he was well on his way. He had done the *Rocky III* film, and we had incorporated that into part of the promotion of Hulk Hogan. He was just on the verge. I mean, I think there would have





been some great matches, and he would have gotten just as much exposure. The only thing that perturbed me was the way that the young wrestlers did not keep their word to us. To that point in time, a wrestler's handshake meant everything. Now it doesn't mean anything.

**Q:** Initially, as we both know, wrestling was more on a territorial basis. Right now, for example, the AWA is in New York, the WWF is in Minneapolis, etc. What's your reaction to, for example, the WWF moving onto the AWA turf?

**A:** Well, I think it was a stupid move,

all over, there are no new faces, there are no new issues, there are no things that the public really has not seen. Where do you find a new wrestler? You get the rare individual who, maybe in a year, year and a half can do something, but it basically takes three or four years, five years, to make a good pro.

**Q:** Are there any people in your camp at this time that you can foresee this happening to?

**A:** We've just started a couple of young guys out of Chicago, I didn't train these two, the Max brothers. I don't know whether they have some potential. Two



Verne Gagne, who will still don the tights when he sees the need, shakes hands with his son Greg as the two are interviewed by Ken Resnick (above). Resnick recently left the AWA to go to the WWF. Hulk Hogan, wrestling Nick Bockwinkel (opposite page), did the same at the end of 1983. Gagne claims that he had a handshake agreement that would keep Hogan in the AWA.

if I can use that term. Certainly wrestling rates today. I mean, Bill, you know that as much as I do, it's overexposed on television. Every market has got 20-30 hours of television, and when this whole thing started, when McMahon started this thing back 2½, three years ago, I said it was going to be a repeat of the '50s. And it is. Wrestling was booming during the early '50s, and by the end of the '50s you could barely get on the air. Oversaturation. Ratings went down because there was too much wrestling. Right now, everybody is

guys came here, two kids from Pennsylvania, that are in training now, they're fairly good size, but I don't . . .

**Q:** You don't see that superstar quality in anybody at this time, in other words?

**A:** Yeah, one of them, he's in Europe wrestling with Otto Wanz in Austria—Leon White. Leon was in our camp last summer, and as far as anybody on the horizon, he has some potential. He's 375 pounds, 6'5", and he has a lot of potential. Good athlete, good athlete. We have another kid here, he's 380



“

**Right now, everybody is all over, there are no new faces, there are no new issues, there are no things that the public really has not seen. Where do you find a new wrestler?**

”

pounds, from San Francisco, Earthquake Ferris, and he's got potential.

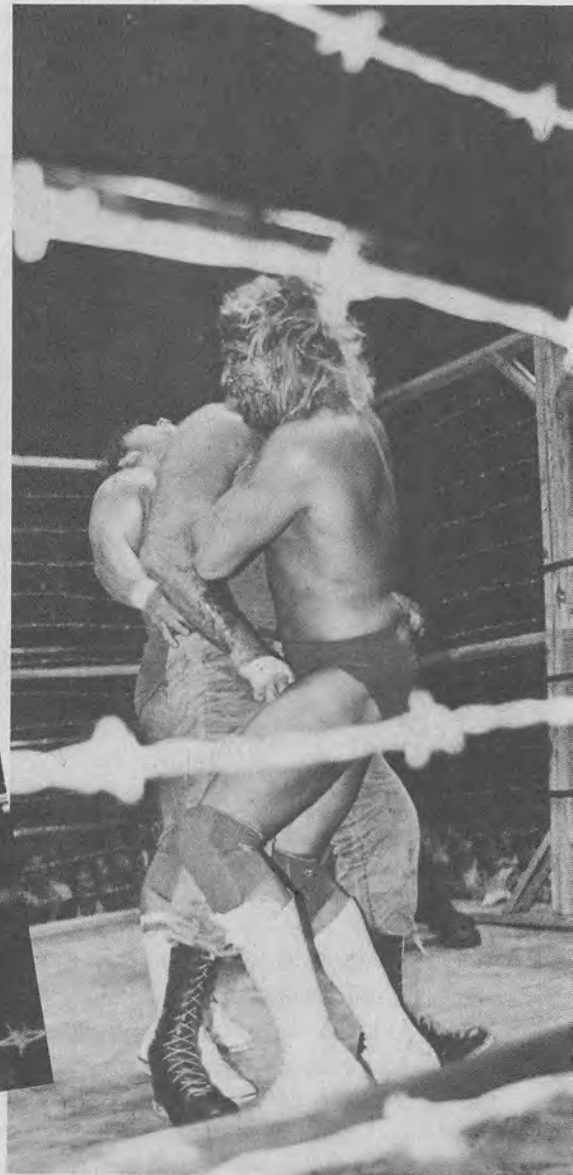
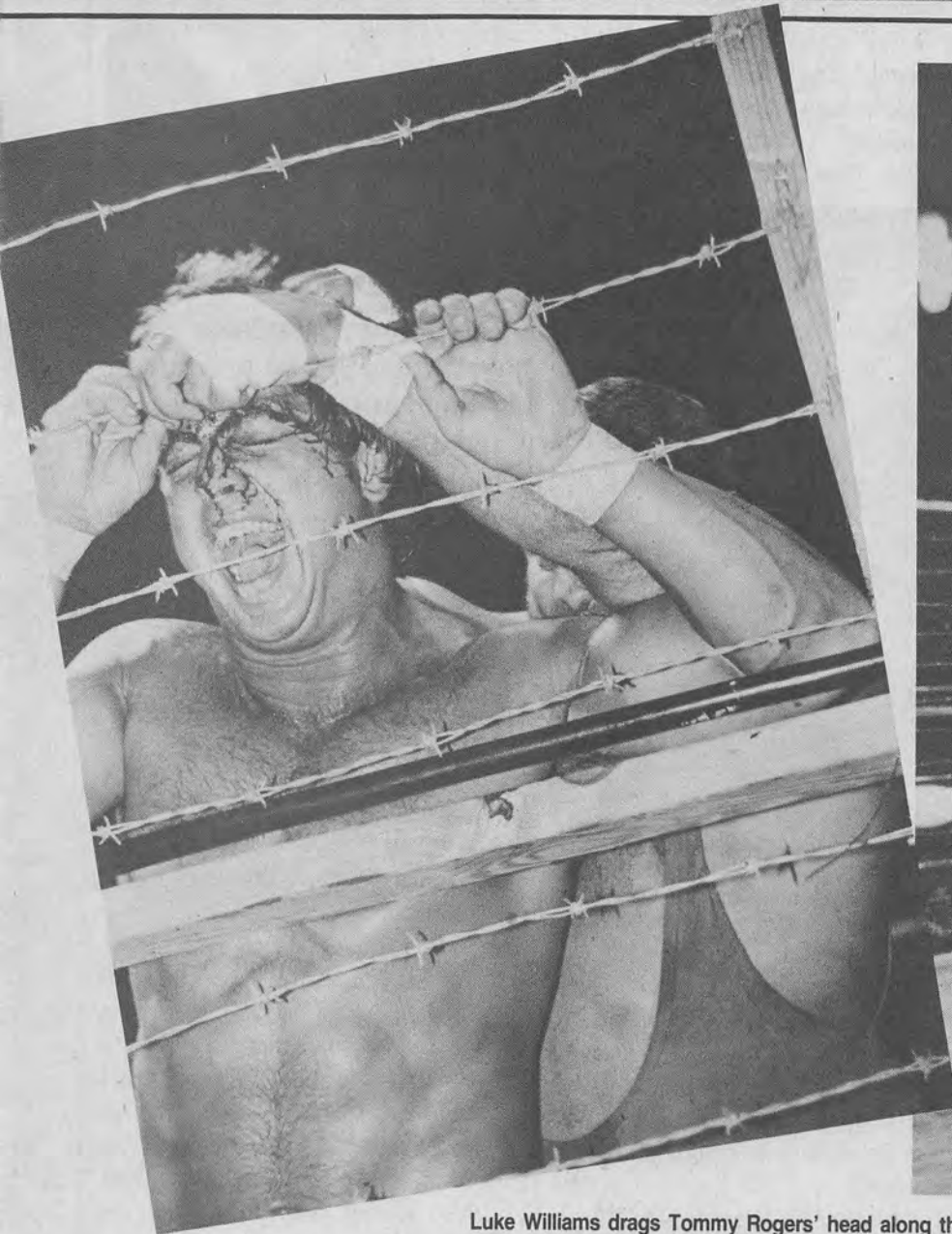
**Q:** Do you feel that the rock and wrestling connection is a good marriage?

**A:** Yes, I do. Look at our demographics, and you'll see that the largest number of fans is between 18 and 41, and that age group is certainly into music. It's just that I think wrestling can stand on its own and rock can stand on its own, without a doubt. But I think it's exciting once in a while to bring the two together.

**Q:** On the WrestleRock card you had Jimmy Snuka and Barry Windham. Are there any names on the horizon that the AWA is bringing in or negotiating with, names that the fans should know about?

*(Continued on page 54)*

# *The Fantastics vs. The Sheepherders:* **THE UWF TAG TEAM BELTS ARE WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN BLOOD!**



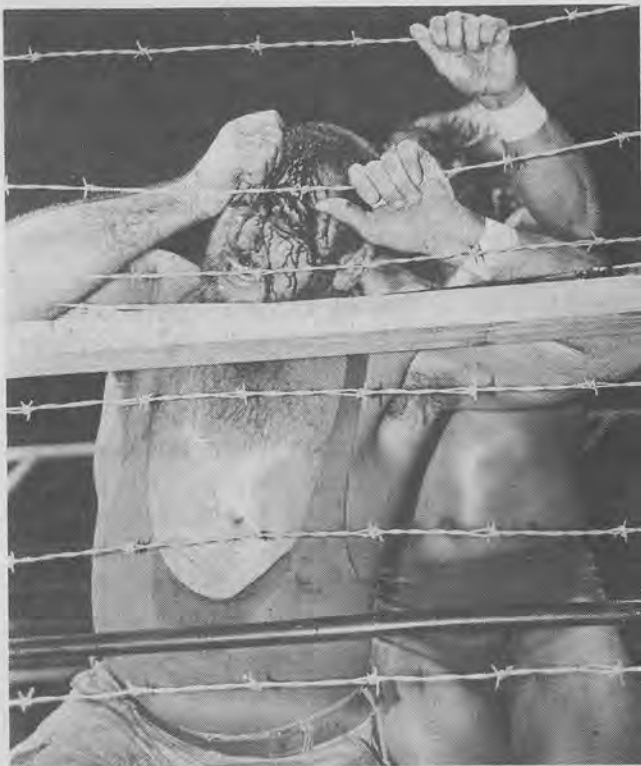
Luke Williams drags Tommy Rogers' head along the barbed wire (above left). The force of Bobby Fulton's forearm smash against Butch Miller sends his own partner, Rogers, reeling (above right).

---

*The human body requires five quarts of blood. After The Fantastics and The Sheepherders did battle in a barbed wire cage match, there might have been that much blood left behind*

---





The barbed wire rips through Miller's forehead, barely missing his eyes (left). Miller climbs the fence, looking to escape danger, and has his head rammed into the wooden frame by Fulton (above).

**E**VER DRAG YOUR face across a barbed wire fence? Remember the feeling? The points of the jagged wire digging into your skin, threatening to tear your eyeballs out of their sockets, and ripping your forehead to shreds. Each move an exercise in agony, the blood rushing to the top of your skin and then oozing out slowly until your face is a nauseating shade of red.

Okay, so you've never dragged your face along a barbed wire fence. Well, then, ever shave with a dull razor and no shaving cream? Each stroke opening up a new wound that ordinary tissue paper cannot close. Then, splashing aftershave on your face and screaming in pain. Aftershave *will* do that.

Take that, and multiply it by 50. That's what it's like to go one-on-one with a barbed wire fence. Tommy Rogers knows. Bobby Fulton knows. Luke Williams knows. Butch Miller knows. Hopefully, you'll never know.

So somebody had the ingenious idea of matching up The Fantastics and The Shepherders, brutal enemies, in a barbed

wire cage match for the UWF tag team title. This same person probably yells "jump" when a man is perched on the ledge of a skyscraper. Anyway, since when did professional wrestling mean mass carnage and general hysteria?

"I'm not saying who made this match, but the guy was fired right after the match," a high-ranking UWF official said. "We only employ one doctor at ringside, and we needed five. Five or six women fainted, I'm not sure which it was, although I think five women fainted and one of them fainted twice. My little boy was there and he was screaming like crazy. The poor kid had nightmares for weeks."

Sounds like fun, the idea of professional wrestling as family entertainment in full bloom. But let's face it: Put two rival tag teams in a ring surrounded by barbed wire and the chance of injury is pretty strong. It becomes even stronger when one team is unconcerned about its health, for as Shepherd Luke Williams revealed before the match, "I remember once my father got mad and beat me with a wool shear.

Felt great."

Sheer excitement, surely.

Actually, things were pretty calm for about 30 seconds. That's when Miller saw fit to smash Rogers' forehead into a strip of barbed wire. The Shepherders were in control early and Fulton was the next victim. Williams dragged Bobby's head along the wire, opening up a deep gash on his forehead.

But then The Fantastics, apparently motivated by the sight of their own blood, regained the momentum. Rogers threw Miller into the fence and blood oozed from the New Zealander's face. After Williams had his turn, all four wrestlers were covered in their own blood. It was, for all intents and purposes, The Fantastics and Shepherders in a hemoglobin fest.

The barbed wire fence was the center of attention. Fulton's face was draped over the wire while Miller tugged it into his eyes. Miller hung onto the fence with his face buried into the barbed wire and blood pouring from his mouth.

At ringside, a young woman let

out a horrified shriek. A 55-year-old construction worker dropped his beer, and, sick to his stomach, ran to the bathroom. A five-year-old child buried her face in her mother's shoulder, and then the mother fainted. A doctor tried to calculate how many stitches it would take to close the two teams' wounds. Call a veterinarian. This was one of those times

when the good seats were the bad seats.

Then Jack Victory, who was seconding The Shepherders, interfered and things got even wilder. Victory and Miller delivered a beating to Rogers and The Fantastics appeared to be in big trouble. Fulton lied helpless on the mat while Williams worked him over.



Jack Victory holds Fulton's arms as Williams blindly flails away (above and below). Victory's interference, while costing The Shepherders any chance for a win, might have ultimately saved four lives.



Suddenly, the match was over. The Fantastics hit The Shepherders with simultaneous flying bodypresses and three counts later walked away with their UWF tag team belts intact. That was about the only thing that remained intact.

The post-brawl scene in the dressing rooms closely resembled the burning of Atlanta scene in *Gone With The Wind*. Bodies laid sprawled out on the trainer's table while doctors—wisely called to the arena during the action—worked to stop the bleeding. A nurse rapidly administered tetanus shots to avoid infection from the barbed wire. Neither team was able to speak with reporters.

The most horrifying moment came when a nurse mistakenly administered adhesive tape to Fulton's forehead without first applying a gauze pad. The nurse had to rip off the tape and, in doing so, tore at Fulton's skin and open wound, causing agonizing pain. The nurse was apologetic. Fulton was nearly apoplectic.

Williams' tongue, which got caught on the barbed wire, was a mass of blood. The muscle beneath the skin of Miller's neck was clearly visible. Fulton and Rogers were winners, but they didn't look that way. A gash on Fulton's forehead was almost cut through to the skull and Rogers was choking on his own blood.

Meanwhile, one was left to wonder. Was it really worth it? Is the tag team belt more valuable than a man's flesh and blood? Is it fair to subject the fans to such a sickening sight? Tommy Rogers answered that question days later.

"The aftermath can be pretty hard to take," said Rogers, "but it's all worth it. The belts are worth all the pain, all the agony, all the blood we have to spill. Beating those guys is worth everything in the world."

Would they do it again?

"In a second." □



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**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One**

**G**ARY HART HAS returned to the World Class area with a vengeance. His seemingly life-long feud with Fritz Von Erich and his sons has now taken into account a new enemy—Fritz's nephew, Lance Von Erich.

Prior to a recent bout pitting Lance and Chris Adams against the team of Kabuki and Rick Rude, Hart entered the ring, grabbed the microphone, and directed his comments to Lance:

"Look here, Lance, I have a message for you, for the fans, and for your uncle. I want you, you prelim pretty boy, messenger boy, to give this message to your uncle, the old windbag in mothballs, Fritz Von Erich. Tell him that Gary Hart is back, that I'm not about to leave, and that I will destroy the Von Erich dynasty in Texas any way necessary."

Hart went on to continue ridiculing the Von Erichs, and Lance had to be restrained from attacking Hart right there. Hart also announced that he was bringing Abdullah the Butcher to Texas to help him in his war against the Von Erichs.

In the wake of this incident, *Inside Wrestling* decided to bring Gary Hart and Lance Von Erich together, "One On One," to discuss verbally a situation that will certainly manifest itself physically by the time this magazine reaches the newsstands.

# ONE ON ONE



*"Just sign the contract, step through the ropes, and take your beating like the man you think you are."*

—Gary Hart

## GARY HART:

And so the messenger boy returns. How are you, boy. How about getting a beating at the hands of the mighty Abdullah the Butcher, boy. I hope you passed my message on to your moth-eaten uncle Fritz, boy.

## LANCE VON ERICH:

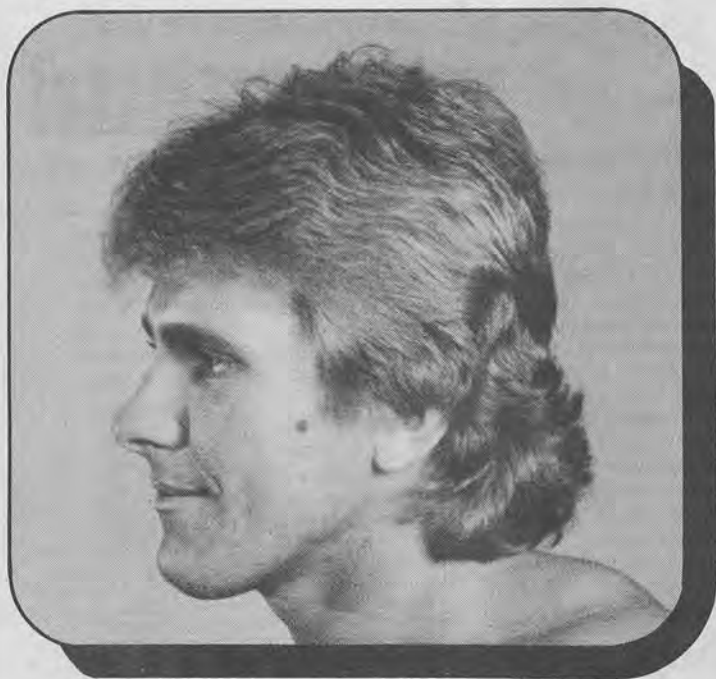
My so-called "moth-eaten" uncle can still kick your butt, and that slob Abdullah's butt, without thinking twice. You're gonna be sorry you ever came back to these parts. And I have a message from my cousin Kerry: He says that when he gets back, he'll have you guys fleeing head-first over the state line.

**GH:** Oh, dear Lance, your wry attempts at humor are enough to

keep me chortling for weeks on end! I'm sorry about what happened to your cousin. I truly am. But I'm not sorry to see him away from the ring. At the soonest, I suspect Kerry will be back in action by, oh, the summer of 1989 or so. Mike is struggling for a comeback that probably won't happen for another year or more, and Kevin's been plagued with an injured shoulder. Mike was a year away from a pro career even before he got sick. The only healthy Von Erichs are yourself, grossly inexperienced, and quite overmatched against Abdullah, and father Fritz. And if he thinks he can beat me in a match—well, I'd be happy to let



# VON ONE



*"I'm willing to meet you and Abdullah any time, any place. The street corner, a dark alley, anywhere you want."*

—Lance Von Erich

him try and suffer the consequences.

**LVE:** Now that you mention it, Hart, your timing was perfect, or was it coincidence that you got here just about the time that I was the only Von Erich wrestling? No matter. The strength of the Von Erich family is behind me. By the way, nice hairstyle. Are you and Abdullah using the same barber or do you just go for a shoeshine and stand on your head?

**GH:** Your wit is as effective as your wrestling style, sir, and far more effective than your misdirected dropkicks and otherwise ineffective style. Pray tell, Lance, what kind of strategy do you plan to employ against an experienced

machine of destruction like Abdullah?

**LVE:** I . . .

**GH:** I'll save you the brain strain, Lance. There is no strategy of defense. Forget about it. Just sign the contract, step through the ropes, and take your beating like the man you think you are.

**LVE:** If you're so confident, Hart, then let's forget the contract, forget the rules, and forget the ref. I'm willing to meet you *and* Abdullah any time, any place. Just name it. The street corner, a dark alley, anywhere you want. I guarantee that I'll walk away the better man.

**GH:** You'll walk away a *crippled* man . . . that is, if you're able to walk away at all. Ask Kerry

what that feels like.

**LVE:** You're a sick man, Hart.

**GH:** Thank you. But I don't want to dwell on these kinds of things. I'd much rather prefer to look to the future, a future where Gary Hart rules the World Class area, and you're relegated to the preliminary matches that you hardly even deserve today.

**LVE:** You're dreaming. Bruiser Brody told me . . .

**GH:** Bruiser Brody is a mercenary. Remember that. It's an important lesson. That's all I'll say about Brody, to you or to anyone. But let me say this: If you think Abdullah is going to be the only man in my stable three months from now, you're sadly mistaken.

**LVE:** Stable is a pretty appropriate word for somebody who's been managing perverts and sub-humans for his entire life. No wonder Brody left you in the dust. He realized that he was far too good to stay with your cast-offs. With Abdullah carrying your flag, you won't even be in this area in three months so I suppose I don't have to worry about what other subversives you might draft.

**GH:** You're not listening to me, dear sir. I told you what to remember, and I told you to pay attention to my lesson. But you don't surprise me, you're making the mistakes of youth and inexperience. You know, I've had enough of you. In fact, I'm surprised you even consented to this conversation. What's the matter, did Fritz have to go buy a case of Geritol for next week?

**LVE:** That's it, Hart, you've taken this too far. You've taken on the Von Erich family pride, and that's a mistake you'll soon regret. Nobody ever insults a member of this family and lives to tell the tale. You'll pay for your evil arrogance, or my name isn't Lance Von Erich. □



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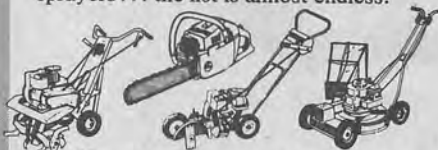
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## (Continued from page 6)

NEIL COSTELLO  
Milwaukee

GREG LAWVILLE  
Ridley Park, PA

(Continued on page 50)

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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 49)

sen exposed you for the wimp that you are.

You tell us that you're taking it slow and not ready to come back to the AWA and take a shot at Hansen. Of course not. Even you wouldn't be foolish enough to thoroughly embarrass yourself once again. Besides, you'd be risking your life if you ever stepped into the ring with Hansen, and you know it.

Stay in Montreal, Rick. It would be the best move you ever made. Meanwhile, Stan Hansen is still the most powerful, most feared man in professional wrestling.

TONY TENEGLIA  
Landover, MD

## STAR STRUCK

I'd like to respond to Stu Saks' "Behind The Dressing Room Door" column in your August 1986 issue. He asks how many of us wouldn't have attended WrestleMania 2 if not for the celebrities.

Well, I'm one who definitely wouldn't have shown up. I dislike wrestling and only saw your magazine because a good friend of mine is a devoted fan. He coerced me into going with him, and I agreed because he told me about all the famous people that would be there. I figured that if it was good enough for Cathy Lee and Joan, it was good enough for me, and 20 or 30 bucks was a small price to pay for seeing these famous people.

I think the WWF should be commended for trying to upgrade the quality of its program by inviting non-wrestlers to participate. Let's face it, this was the WWF's biggest card of the year and they wanted to draw their biggest crowds. WrestleMania 2 was not just a wrestling card. It was an event and not solely for wrestling purists.

The question isn't how many wouldn't have attended if there were no celebrities but how many attended because there were celebrities. Having

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Joan Rivers, Cathy Lee, Susan St. James, Ricky Schroeder and others on the program only enhanced the quality of the event.

JAMES MENNE  
Chicago

## BOO TO GEIGEL

An open letter to Bob Geigel:

Mr. Geigel, what kind of hypocritical organization are you running? You reprimand Magnum T.A. for "conduct unbecoming a champion," merely for taking action against Nikita Koloff's insulting words about his mother.



Based on his treatment of past offenders, NWA President Bob Geigel was too hard on Magnum T.A., writes Michael McCullough.

All right, T.A. lost his temper and struck you, but only because you implied he shouldn't have let Koloff's comments get to him. Who wouldn't take offense at that kind of remark?

What gets me is that Ric Flair gets away with breaking Dusty's leg and breaking Ricky Morton's nose and anything else he feels like doing. What about Flair's conduct? Why don't you do something about that? I invite any response from the fans on my opinions, whether they agree with me or not.

MICHAEL McCULLOUGH  
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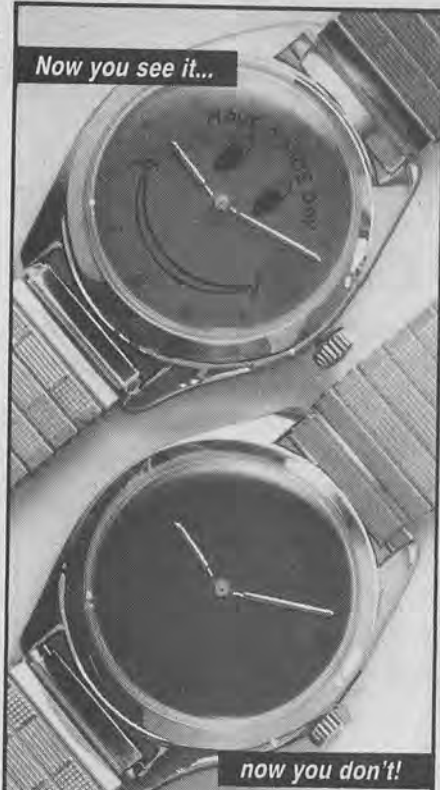
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## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

tion I couldn't fight my way out of," Tommy said. "But what could I do? Eddie's a full-grown man now. I can't spank him. And I certainly can't talk to him."

UWF President Bill Watts knows a good thing when he sees one. In a sport sadly lacking in competent referees—and loyal friends—Watts was not about to let Tommy Gilbert get away. That morning, Gilbert had handed him an envelope containing his resignation and walked out of Watts' office. Bill read the note and angrily called Tommy back to see him. "I admit it, I lost control of myself," Watts said, "but I was angry. Tommy is one of my best friends in the world, and I wasn't going to let some punk kid push him out of a job that he loves. And I wasn't going to lose a damn good referee."

Watts declined to accept the resignation, which Gilbert found less surprising than what his boss had to say afterward. "I might have overstepped my bounds a bit," Watts now admits, "but I think Tommy needed to know that he wasn't alone in his disappointment of Eddie. He needed a friend to say what I said."

"Bill called Eddie a little punk who is going to have some sense kicked into his butt in the ring," Tommy said, faintly smiling. "It was hard to listen to him saying things like that about my son, but I knew he meant well. Besides, maybe Bill can get through to Eddie. I know I can't anymore."

It is common knowledge around these parts that some high-priced lawyers have for months been Watts' only roadblock to suspending Eddie Gilbert and his Hot Stuff Inc. stable, which includes Kortsia Korchenko and The Blade Runners. "Watts steams every time he sees Gilbert and Korchenko dancing around the



Tommy and Eddie Gilbert were as close as father and son can be. Now Tommy can't even speak to his son anymore.

ring with the Russian flag and draping it over their beaten opponents," said a high-ranking UWF official. "But if he can't nail Gilbert legally, he'll gladly don the tights once again and give him an all-American butt-kicking."

And don't think for a minute that Watts couldn't do it. I don't care how old he is or how long he's been sitting behind a desk, this is one tough Oklahoma cowboy. "I don't think Eddie really understands what he's getting himself into," the official said. "Bill Watts is angrier than I've ever seen him. And there's no way Eddie can avoid the confrontation. If Bill Watts wants a match in the UWF, I think he's going to find a way to get it. Gilbert's lawyers can't protect him in the ring."

Now, where could Watts find a good referee for such a match? Tommy Gilbert stared at the photo of father and son when asked if he would agree to be a referee for a match between his son and his boss. Without taking his eyes off the photo, he answered. "At this point in my life, I feel more like a UWF referee than I do Eddie Gilbert's father. If Bill asks me to officiate, how can I say no?" □



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**June 1982/COLOR PINUP:** Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

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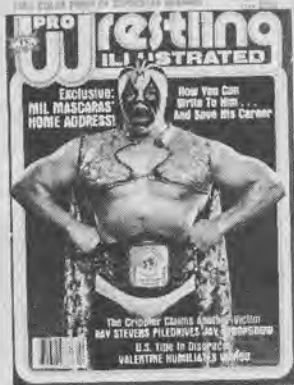
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**January 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

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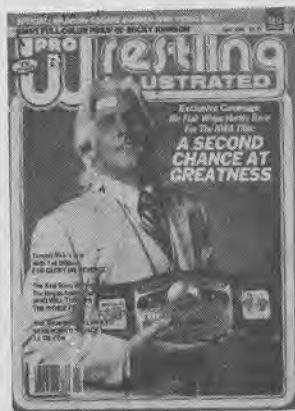
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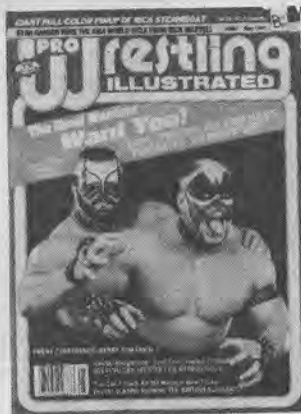
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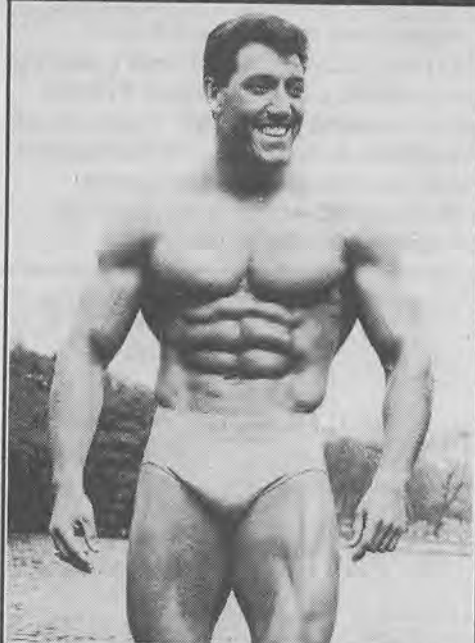
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## HOTSEAT

(Continued from page 41)



Superfly Snuka tangles with Bruiser Brody at WrestleRock '86 in March. While the AWA will occasionally import talent, Gagne feels that they already have the finest roster of wrestlers in the world.

**A:** We're negotiating with Rick Rude.

We wanted to bring the Von Erich boys in, but circumstances have obviously made that impossible. We're going to stay with the guys that we've got. We feel we have as good a talent pool as anyone in the world. One guy whose style is a throwback to the '50s, but his politics is certainly today, is Col. DeBeers out of South Africa. He's controversial, but he's a very tough wrestler.

**Q:** You mentioned Rick Rude and the Von Erichs. Recently, the World Class has claimed Rick Rude as another claimant to a world championship. Most of the public recognizes the AWA, NWA, and WWF as world titles. What was your reaction when you heard that another world championship hat was thrown into the ring, so to say?

**A:** I don't know, I don't think it's really good for wrestling. It's truly not a title that a lot of people take too seriously. But Texas has a right to do what they want. They always have.

**Q:** What about joint promotions? The AWA and the NWA have had

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some very successful joint promotions. Can we look forward to seeing more of those in the future?

**A:** I think there will be, yes. Whether it will be with the NWA, that's probably the most logical one. There are, again, some differences of philosophy when you do put them together such as doing videos off of that, promotional problems, and so forth. But I think they can be overcome.

**Q:** Do you ever think there will be a day when Verne Gagne can call Vince McMahon and say, "Why don't we match my champion and your champion?" Do you think that can ever come about again?

**A:** Oh boy, I've been trying that my whole career. Certainly we're wide open to it, we'd love to do it. We'd love to put our champ against the other so-called claimants to the world title. I probably pushed that as hard as anyone, even when I was still wrestling, and I just couldn't get them to do it. □

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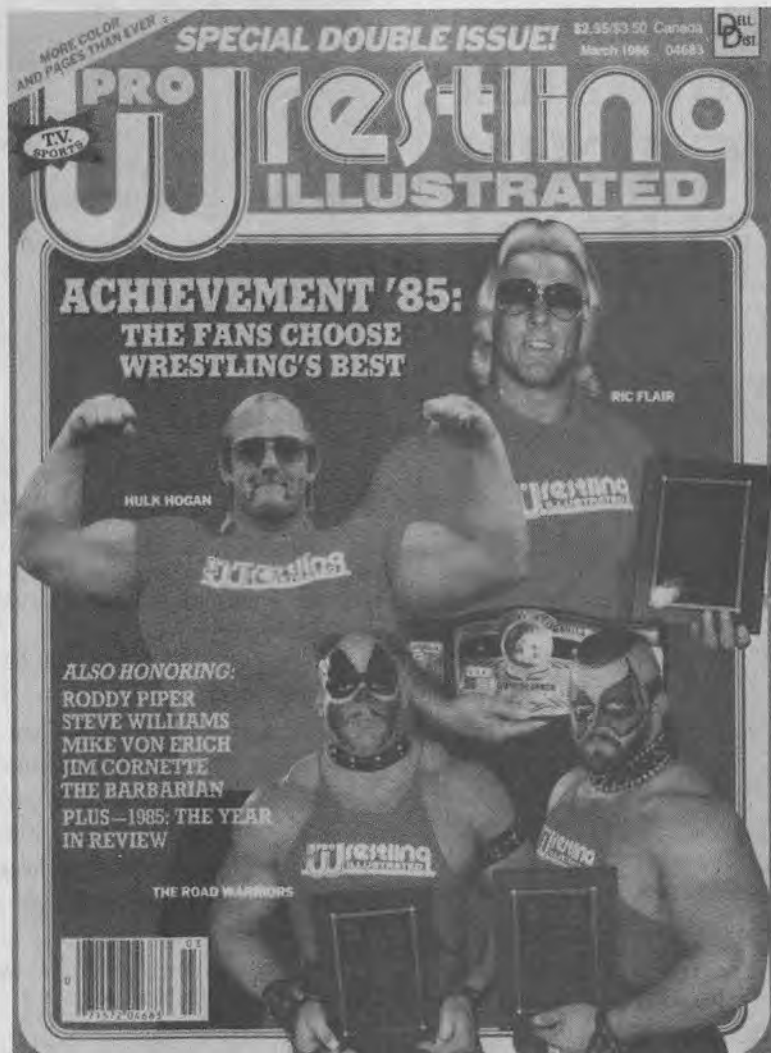
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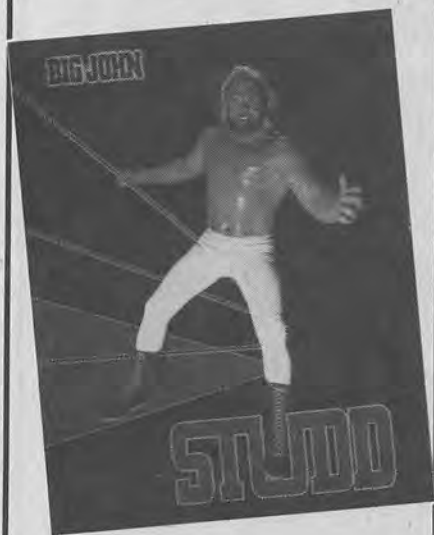
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## FLAIR VS. LUGAR

(Continued from page 35)



Flair opens his mouth and attempts to shout in pain, but nothing comes out—his challenger has a firm grip on his vocal chords (above). Luger wraps his mighty arms around the champion's torso as he weakens Flair en route to his first-fall victory (opposite right).

ing and was helped back to the dressing room by Roop and Danny Miller, a Florida wrestling official. Flair eventually returned to the ring, but Luger was unable to continue because of internal bleeding. The referee counted out Luger for the remaining two falls and Flair retained his title.

This left a number of unanswered questions: Why did Flair return to the dressing room? Did he plan the attack, or was Hump-dink behind it? And finally, if Flair did plan the attack, why did he feel he needed 10 men to defeat Lex Luger? There were a variety of answers, but few conclusions.

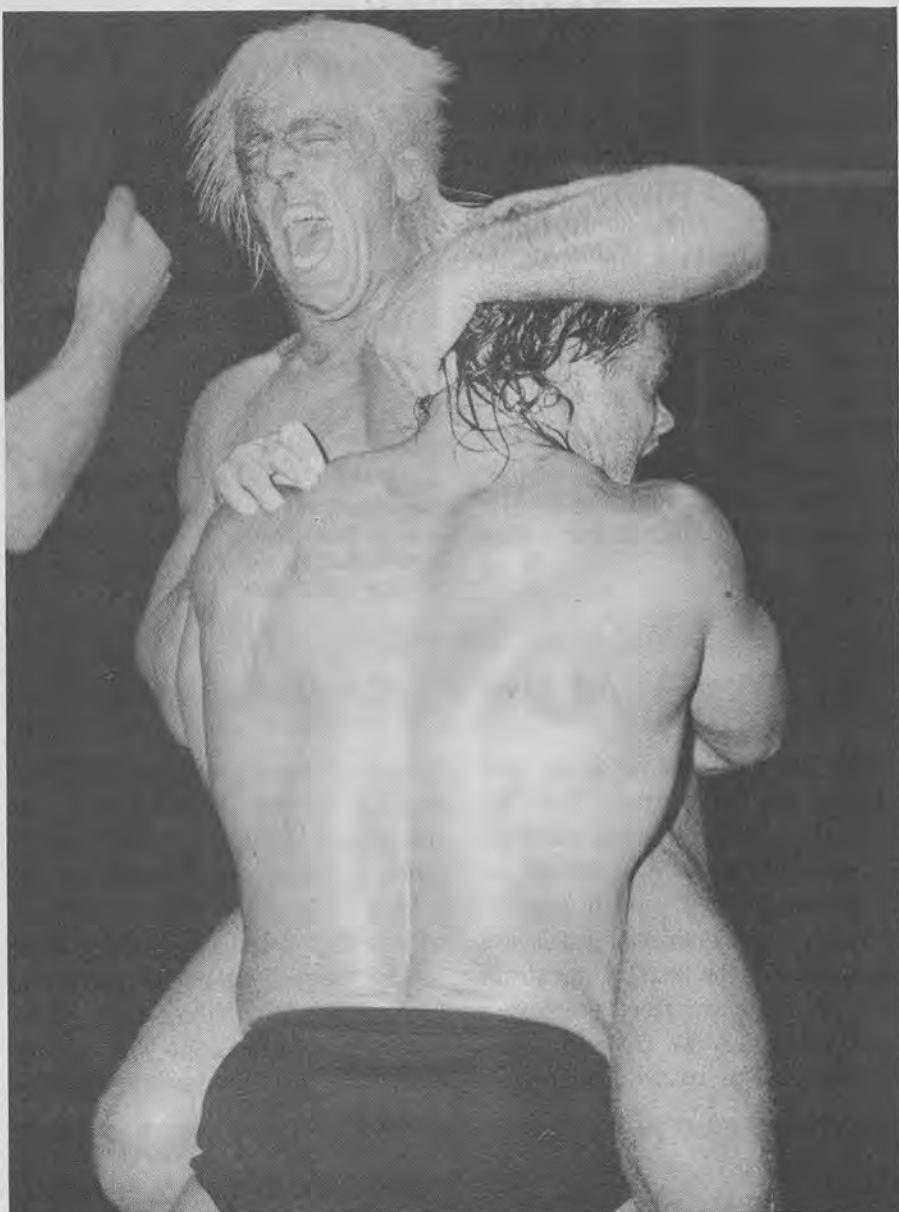
"I'm only putting up with these accusations because I know that if I don't, you'll write whatever you feel." Ric Flair was not in a good mood. "I returned to the dressing room to repair a lace on my shoe. That was the only reason. Otherwise, I would have stayed in the ring. No, I did not plan the attack and knew nothing about it. And finally, I should punch you in the face for even suggesting that I need 10 men to beat Luger. Now

get out."

Lex Luger was next, and he, too, wasn't in a good mood. The Southern champion was trying to relax in his apartment but had Flair on his mind. "You'd have to be an idiot not to think Flair was behind this," said Luger. "A broken shoelace? He must be crazy to expect us to believe that. Flair knew that I could beat him, so he had these guys standing by just in case. He was very frustrated after the first fall, so he called his men in. Pretty amazing, huh? The NWA World champion needed 10 guys to beat me, and I still would have come back if it wasn't for the doctor."

But the proof just wasn't there. Hump-dink refused to speak. Barry Windham backed up Luger. The NWA offices claimed that they were still investigating the matter. Fans at ringside were adamant that Flair should be stripped of his title. There appeared to be no clear conclusion, until Roop came forth with some shocking news: A plainclothesed security guard, who was stationed at the entrance to the dressing room





area, had information that would expose Flair.

*Inside Wrestling* received a call from John "Red" Foley two days after the match. Foley said he had information that we would find valuable. A private meeting was arranged for the next day.

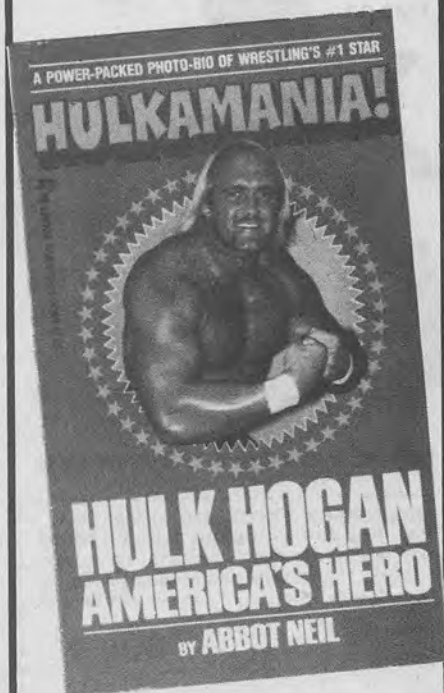
"I try to keep my ears and eyes open at all times," explained Foley, "and before the match, I heard Flair talking on the phone. Now, I hate to eavesdrop, but I couldn't help but hear him saying something about hiring Humperdink to put together a posse to beat up Luger if he got into trouble.

"Then, after Luger won the first fall, I saw Flair walking back to the dressing room so I knew that

something was up. I followed him inside, and he was just sitting there laughing. I heard the doctor say, 'Hey Ric, is anything wrong?' and Flair said, 'Nothing wrong with me. It's Luger who's got problems.' I heard screaming outside, and walked back to the runway. That's when I saw a whole load of guys attacking Luger and it wasn't too difficult to put two and two together."

Or 11 and one. Ten hoodlums and Ric Flair vs. Lex Luger. Flair had set the odds: 11-1, the chance he had of defeating Luger. The NWA champion had all but admitted defeat. The belt was disgraced. Ric Flair had reached a new low. The verdict was returned. Guilty as charged. ☐

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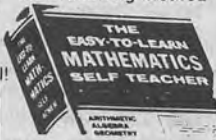
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## RANDY SAVAGE

(Continued from page 37)

**Magnificent Muraco.** Like Morales, another two-time Intercontinental champ, and like Roberts, another rule-breaker. Muraco would no doubt love to go for number three, but would the WWF make the match? Would Muraco wrestle his friend? Muraco is an inventive wrestler who thinks on his feet, as is Savage. The hunger for a third reign and his uncanny ability to both absorb and inflict remarkable levels of punishment would provide Muraco with a clear edge in just such a match.



Magnificent Muraco uses the Asiatic spike against Rick Steamboat. Would the WWF give Muraco the opportunity to try it against a fellow rulebreaker?

## Five Contenders Who Should Give Up The Challenge

**Tito Santana.** While we do not have complete day-by-day results from the WWF since Savage won the title from Santana on February 8 in Boston, we do possess a pretty good account of Santana's Intercontinental challenges since then. For the first 3½ months of Savage's title reign, from February 9 through May 23, we have 36 singles title defenses on record (undoubtedly

there were more than that). Of those matches, however, Savage defended his title against Santana *no fewer than 28 times*, including one two-week period (March 15-28) where Santana received at least eight title shots, *winning them all by disqualification!* Remarkably, Santana won 22 of those 28 matches, mostly by disqualification—leading one

(Continued on page 62)



Tito Santana has had ample opportunity to regain the Intercontinental title from Savage and has failed to do so.

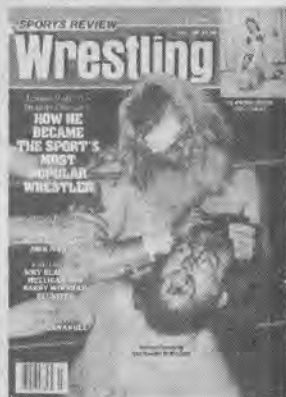


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 May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.  
 June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.  
 July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.  
 October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.  
 January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.  
 March 1981/SPECIAL EDITION—Results of 1980 Fan Awards Poll  
 April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.  
 June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.  
 August 1981/Freebirds, Mascaras, Wrestling II, Brisco.  
 September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.  
 October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.  
 November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.  
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 March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.  
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 May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.  
 June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.  
 July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.  
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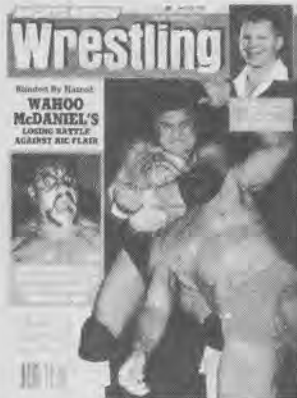
January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.  
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 May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.  
 June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.



JULY 1983

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.  
 October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.  
 November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.  
 December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.  
 January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.  
 February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.  
 March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.  
 April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!  
 June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.  
 July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.  
 August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.  
 September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.  
 October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.  
 November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!  
 December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.



JANUARY 1985

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.  
 February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.  
 March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.  
 April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.  
 June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.  
 July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.  
 August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.  
 September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr, Atlanta, Steamboat.  
 October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.  
 November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.  
 December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.  
 January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.  
 February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.  
 March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.  
 April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.  
 May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.  
 June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.  
 July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.  
 August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.  
 September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, first UWF title tourney.

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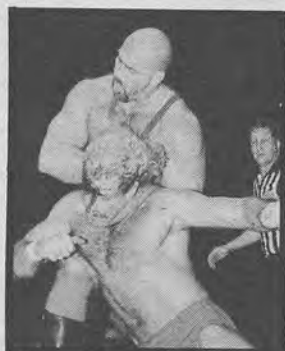
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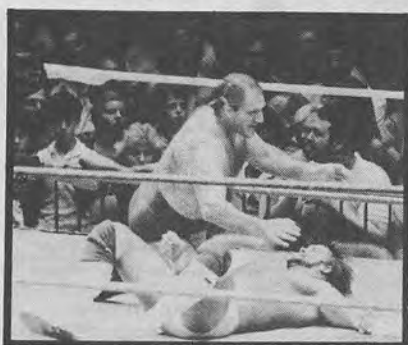
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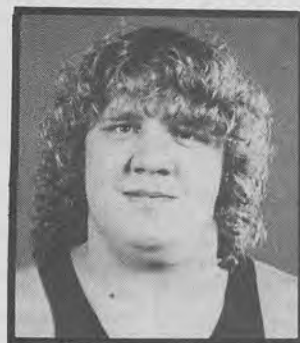
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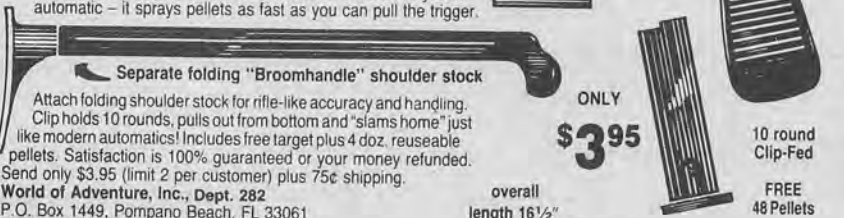
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## RANDY SAVAGE

(Continued from page 58)

to believe from this evidence that Savage is employing a Ric Flair-style disqualification defense to his title reign. Clearly, though, Savage has been able to thwart Santana's title aspirations at every turn. Tito has received enough title shots, and has been unable to regain the belt. It's long past the time to give up and allow someone else a chance.



George Steele pummels "The Macho Man" from behind. "The Animal" doesn't have the intelligence needed to defeat Savage.

**George Steele.** It was Steele who received the coveted challenge against Savage at WrestleMania 2, and it was Steele who received at least five title shots during Savage's first two weeks as champion. Savage won all of those early matches, just as he won the WrestleMania 2 bout. Steele's strategies are simply too primitive to enable him to beat "The Macho Man." And even if "The Animal" could curb his lust for Elizabeth and by fluke manage to pin Savage, he wouldn't know what to do with the Intercontinental belt; he'd probably try to eat it.

**Junkyard Dog.** Savage's very first match after winning the title was against Junkyard Dog. And Savage lost the match. JYD also teamed with Santana to defeat the combination of Savage and Jesse Ventura one month into Savage's reign. But JYD wrestled far below expectations in those matches, and his victories were lucky at best. In a sustained challenge for the belt,



we believe Savage would be able to tame the Dog with relative ease. JYD should not risk the likely injuries and embarrassments of a lengthy challenge to "The Macho Man."

**Bruno Sammartino.** Bruno has graciously (or stupidly) involved himself in the Savage-Santana feud by volunteering (or agreeing to Santana's request) to act as a special referee in several Intercontinental title bouts. The eddies and currents of this feud appear to be pointing to a Savage-Bruno series, one in which "The Living Legend" might well be the underdog. Besides, do WWF fans really want to see the man who held the WWF belt longer than anyone else settle for what is essentially the WWF's secondary title? We don't think so.



While showing steady improvement, Dan Spivey is still too inexperienced to mount a serious threat to Savage's title.

**Dan Spivey.** Spivey may be the most unlikely challenger of all to Savage, and he has wrestled "The Macho Man." And while the blond youngster has heart to spare, he is grossly inexperienced. Considering the difficulty a seasoned grappler like Santana has had with Savage, it would be pure foolishness for Spivey to press the WWF championship committee for a serious challenge to the title. □

# Wrestling 86

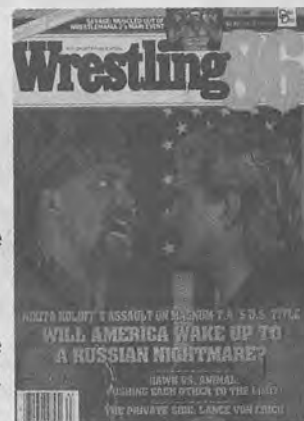
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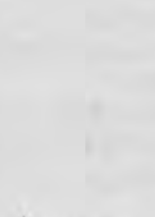
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## ROAD WARRIORS

(Continued from page 31)



Animal executes a devastating powerslam against Eaton.

capable of defeating Dennis Condrey and Bobby Eaton. Indeed, without the interference of Jim Cornette in several matches during March and April, Hawk and Animal might be champions today. They had the Midnights reeling on the ropes like a boxer in the late rounds who'd absorbed too much punishment.

And they turned and let them go. Scot free. No more title matches. They could have closed in for the kill during the Bash series, but instead they simply left the possibility of capturing the NWA World tag belts for someone else to enjoy.

The Road Warriors did not display their characteristic killer instinct at a time when that instinct could have brought them the most coveted tag team title in the world. And that can only be viewed as a step backward for the organization known as The Legion of Doom.

The Bashes last through early August, and there will no doubt be a post-Bash settling-down period following whatever events take place during these monumental cards. So it may not be until at least late fall that we learn whether Hawk and Animal can regain the killer instinct they've failed to display during this time. And whether their reputation can recoup the losses that they've already suffered due to the matches they've taken at the Bashes—and, mostly, due to the matches they *haven't* taken.

For their sake, let's hope that by then it won't be too late. ☐



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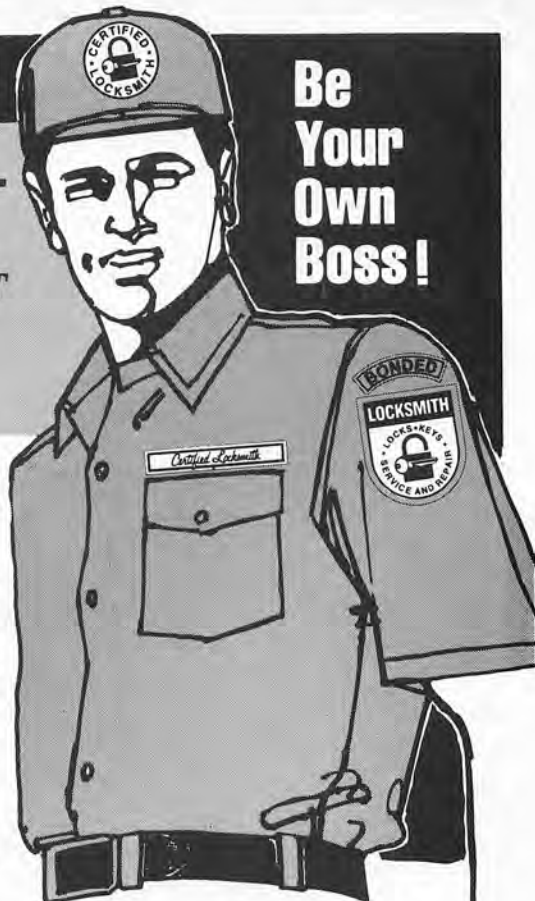
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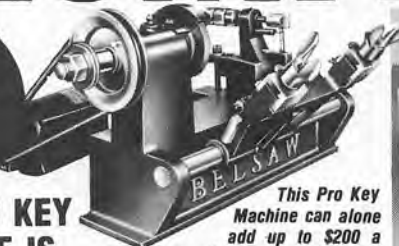
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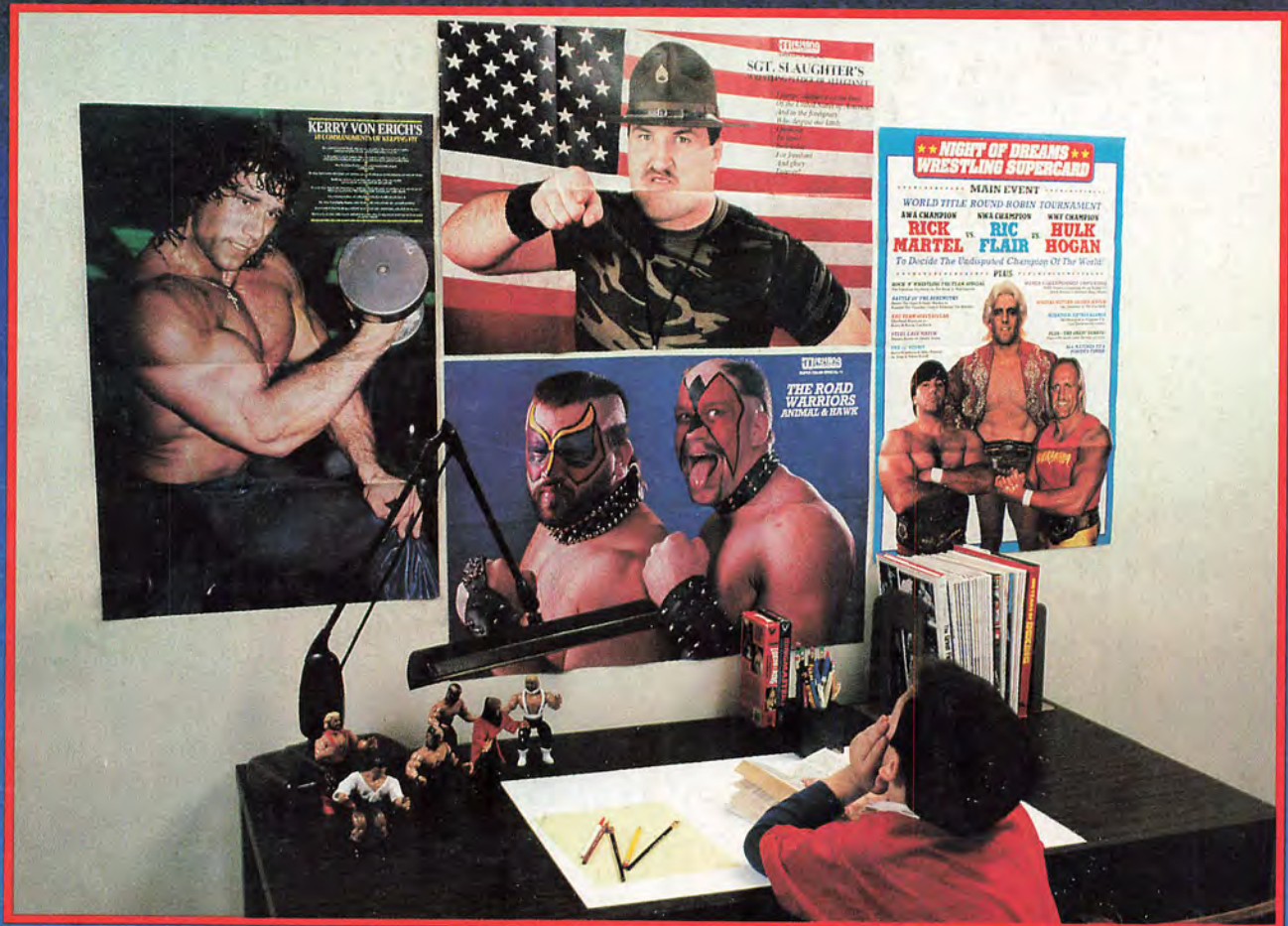
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